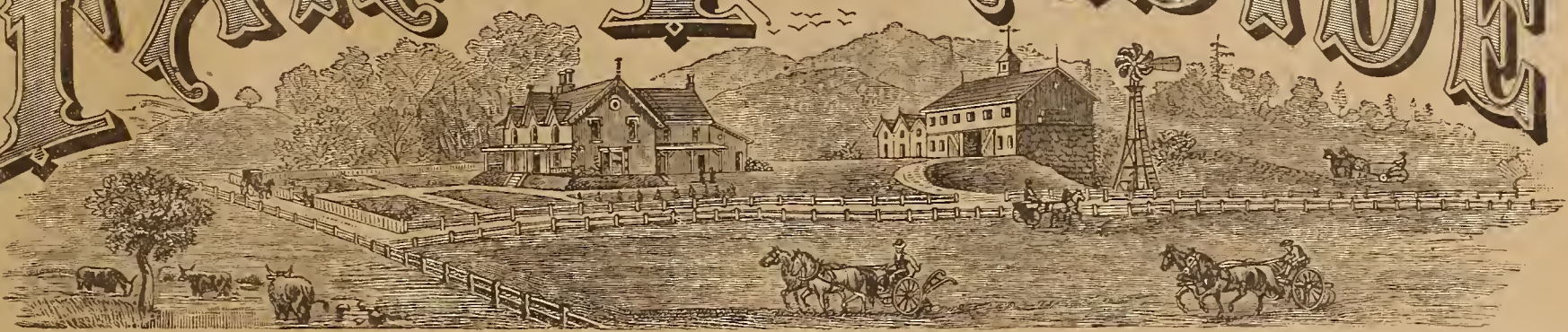


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United States notes. The issue of bank notes would be governed by the opinions and interests of the banks, and the amount could be increased or diminished according to their interests and without regard to the public good. As an auxiliary and supplement to United States notes, bank notes may be issued as now when amply secured by United States bonds, but it would be a dangerous experiment to confine our paper money to bank notes alone, the amount of which should depend upon the interest, hopes and fears of corporations which would be guided alone by the supposed interests of their stockholders.

"There is another objection to a sole dependence on bank notes as currency. They cannot be made a legal tender either by the states or United States, while it is settled by the Supreme Court that notes of the United States may be made a legal tender, a function that ought to belong to money.

"I know that my views on this subject are not entertained by the influential class of our citizens who manage our banks, but in this I prefer the opinion and interest of the great body of our people, who instinctively prefer the notes of the United States, supported by coin reserves, to any form of bank paper that has yet been devised. The only danger in our present currency is that the amount may be increased to a sum that cannot be maintained at par with coin, but the same or a greater danger would exist if the volume of paper money should be left to the interested opinion of bankers alone.

"It is sometimes claimed that neither the government nor banks should issue paper money; that coin only is money. It is sufficient to say that all commercial nations have been constrained by necessity to provide some form of paper money as a substitute for coin. The experience of the United States has proven this necessity, and for many years our people were compelled to rely upon state bank notes as a medium of exchange, with resulting loss and bankruptcy. For the want of paper money at the commencement of the civil war, the United States was compelled to issue its notes and to make them a legal tender. Without this, the effort to preserve the Union would have utterly failed. With such a lesson before us, it is futile to attempt to conduct the business of a great country like ours with coin alone. Gold can only be a measure or standard of value, but cannot be the current money of the country. Silver, also, can only be used as money for the small transactions of life, its weight and bulk forbidding its use in commerce or trade. The fluctuations in market value of these metals make it impossible to permit the free coinage of both at any ratio with each other without de-

monetizing one of them. The cheaper money will always be the money in circulation. Wherever free coinage now exists, silver is the only money; while where gold is the standard, silver is employed as a subsidiary coin, maintained at par in gold by the mandate of the government and its receipt for or redemption in gold."

By the death of Judge Thurman, the United States loses a statesman who was for a long period of years the ablest leader of the Democratic party. Allen G. Thurman was born of revolutionary stock, in Lynchburg, Va., November 13, 1813. On account of strong antislavery convictions, his parents removed to Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1819. There young Thurman received his education, studied law and practised his profession until 1853, when he removed to Columbus. He read law with his uncle, Governor Wm. Allen, then United States senator, and Noah H. Swayne, afterward associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. He was admitted to the bar in 1835, and rapidly rose to eminence in his profession. December 1, 1845, he took his seat in Congress, the youngest member of that body. He served one term, and declined a renomination, preferring to practise law. From 1851 to 1856 he served on the supreme bench of Ohio, part of the time as chief justice. In 1867, Judge Thurman was defeated for governor by Rutherford B. Hayes by a small majority; the Democrats, however, carried the legislature and elected him United States senator to succeed Benjamin F. Wade. Re-elected, his service in the Senate covered twelve years—from 1869 to 1881.



ALLEN G. THURMAN.

In his special message to Congress on the Venezuelan question, President Cleveland responds nobly to the patriotic sentiment of the American people. In firm, brave, dignified language he says just what the people have been wanting to

hear. No message ever received such unanimous and hearty approval. American sentiment on the Monroe doctrine knows no party or sectional lines.

Accompanying the message are Secretary Olney's dispatch and Prime Minister Salisbury's reply. Mr. Olney states the important features of the existing situation as follows:

1. The title to territory of indefinite but confessedly very large extent is in dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela.
2. The disparity in strength of the parties is such that Venezuela can hope to establish her claim only through peaceful methods.
3. The controversy has existed for half a century, despite Venezuela's efforts to establish a boundary.
4. Venezuela has for a quarter of a century striven for arbitration.

5. Great Britain has continuously refused, except upon the renunciation in her favor of a large part of Venezuela's claims.

6. The United States has made it clear to Great Britain and the world by frequent interposition of good offices that the controversy is one in which its honor and its interests are involved, and the continuance of which it cannot regard with indifference.

After reviewing the historical applications of the Monroe doctrine, Secretary Olney says:

"There is, then, a doctrine of American public law, well founded in principle and abundantly sanctioned by precedent, which entitles and requires the United States to treat as an injury to herself the forcible assumption of political power over an American state. The application of the doctrine to the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela remains to be made, and presents no real difficulty."

In his reply, Lord Salisbury flatly refuses to accede to the request to have the whole question submitted to arbitration, practically says that the Monroe doctrine does not apply, and that it is no good now, anyway, and even intimates in veiled language that, in event the rights of any of her colonies are violated by another state, Great Britain will secure whatever reparation she can under international law. In effect, this is a declaration that she will, under cover of alleged misconduct toward a British colony by any American state, even forcibly assume political control over the offending state, if she desires.

President Cleveland says:

"Having labored faithfully for many years to induce Great Britain to submit this dispute to impartial arbitration, and having been now finally apprised of her refusal to do so, nothing remains but to accept the situation, to recognize its plain requirements, and deal with it accordingly.

"It is now incumbent upon the United States to take measures to determine with sufficient certainty for its justification what is the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana. The inquiry to that end should, of course, be conducted carefully and judicially, and due weight should be given to all available evidence, records and facts in support of the claims of both parties.

"In order that such an examination should be prosecuted in a thorough and satisfactory manner, I suggest that the Congress make an adequate appropriation for the expenses of a commission to be appointed by the executive, who shall make the necessary investigation and report upon the matter with the least possible delay. When such report is made and accepted, it will, in my opinion, be the duty of the United States to resist, by every means in its power, as a wilful aggression upon its rights and interests, the appropriation by Great Britain of any lands or the exercise of governmental jurisdiction over any territory which, after investigation, we have determined of right belongs to Venezuela."

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, in his annual message to Congress, and Secretary Carlisle, in the annual report of the Treasury Department, propose an important change in our complicated currency system. They recommend the redemption and cancellation of all legal-tender notes, both the United States notes, or greenbacks, and the treasury notes known as Sherman notes. The proposition involves changes in the national banking system, to provide currency to take the place of that withdrawn from circulation. On these questions there is no higher authority than the master financier who, as secretary of the treasury, brought about the resumption of specie payments after eighteen years' suspension.

Senator John Sherman, in his "Recollections of Forty Years in the House, Senate and Cabinet," says:

"I am convinced that United States notes based on coin in the treasury are the best form of currency yet devised, and that the volume might be gradually increased as the volume of business increases. Since resumption, such notes have been maintained at par with coin by holding in the treasury coin to the amount of thirty per cent of the notes outstanding. This coin, lying idle and yielding no interest, costs the government the interest on an equal amount of bonds, or a fraction over one per cent on the sum of United States notes in circulation. These notes are a part of the debt of the United States, and if redeemed, must be paid by the issue of \$346,000,000 of bonds. I see no reason why the people of the United States should not have the benefit of this cheap loan rather than the national banks, and there are many reasons why the issue of a like amount of notes by national banks cannot fill the place or perform the functions of

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Farm Products. The December crop report of the Department of Agriculture compares the prices of farm products with one year ago, as follows:

"The farm price of corn averages 26.7 cents against 45.6 last year.

"The average price of wheat is 53.2 cents per bushel against 49.8 last year; of rye, 43.7 cents against 50.5; of oats, 20.5 cents against 32.9; of barley, 35.4 cents against 44.3; of buckwheat, 49.2 cents against 56.2 cents last year.

"The returns show the average price of hay to be \$9.38 per ton against \$8.35 same date last year. The average price of tobacco is returned at 6.6 cents against 6.7 cents last year. The price of potatoes on the farm is reported at 28.8 cents per bushel against 55.5 cents last year."

Regarding winter wheat, the report says: "The condition of winter wheat on December 1st averaged for the country 81.4 per cent against 89 last year and 91.5 in 1893.

"In the principal winter-wheat states the percentages are as follows: Ohio, 74; Michigan, 79; Indiana, 80; Illinois, 79; Missouri, 76; Kansas, 80; Nebraska, 90; California, 102.

"The returns make the acreage of winter wheat just sown 104.6 per cent of that harvested in 1895. This estimate, which is preliminary to the completed estimate of June next, therefore, makes the area sown for the harvest of 1896, 23,647,000 acres."

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Mixing Varieties of Fruits. I have often spoken of the need of proper pollen in fruit growing, and often asserted that the lack of such pollen is a frequent cause of fruit failure. Years ago I observed, for instance, that isolated trees of the Wild Goose plum—then one of the most common of the native sorts—almost without exception remained barren, while trees standing near other varieties, or perhaps even near cherries or peaches, bore heavy crops. Investigation led to the discovery of the fact that the pollen of the Wild Goose blossom is incapable of fertilizing its own pistil. In other words, the Wild Goose, in order to be made to bear fruit, must have the co-operation of pollen from other sources besides Wild Goose

blossoms. More recently, Professors Waite, of the Department of Agriculture, and Beach, of the New York state experiment station, have extended this investigation to pears and apples, respectively. The former found that many varieties, notably the popular Bartlett, are self-sterile. Some orchards consisting of only one variety in one block have utterly refused to bear fruit except in the vicinity of a chance tree of some other sort. The indications are that we will find similar occurrences among apples. I myself should be surprised if it were otherwise.

At this writing I am in Woodstock, Ontario, listening to the discussions of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. Prof. Craig, of the experimental farm at Ottawa, in his address on the "Blooming Period of Fruit-trees," reported that he had begun experimenting with the apple in the same way that Prof. Waite had experimented with the pear. He is not yet able to announce definite conclusions. The cause of unfruitfulness of orchards has often been a frequent subject of discussions and of widely differing opinions. One grower proposes to cure it by root-pruning; another by top-pruning; one by stimulating growth with manure; another by seeding orchards down to check the growth; still another by spraying, etc.

One thing seems to be well established; namely, that orchards of intermingled varieties are more fruitful than orchards with the varieties separate. But the fruit growers must know what varieties to plant together so that one can furnish pollen for another. In cherries, Prof. Craig has found practically no difference in the blooming period, but there is a great difference in the time of blooming with apples, pears and plums. He places apples in three groups. The first group, that of earliest bloomers, embraces Duchess, Fameuse, McIntosh Red and Ben Davis. The middle group embraces Baldwin, Golden Russet, Wealthy, Wagener, Yellow Transparent, and Red Astrachan; and the third, or late, group, Alexander, Maiden's Blush, Northern Spy, Ribston Pippin, Roxbury Russet and Talman Sweet.

Pears are placed in two groups, the earlier bloomers, like Howell, Kieffer, Seckel, Sheldon and Anjou; and the later bloomers, like Bartlett, Clapp's Favorite, Duchess and Flemish Beauty. Plums are also classified as early bloomers, like Burbank, Duane's Purple, Lombard and Bradshaw; and late bloomers, like German Prune, Imperial Gage, Moore's Arctic and Reine Claude. Of course, the wise fruit grower will try to plant varieties together that belong to the same group, or, in other words, bloom nearly as possible at the same time. For orchards planted without regard to the provision of chances for cross-fertilization, and evidently lacking and needing such chances, Prof. Craig says we may top-graft part of the trees, or keep bees, or both. He thinks that bees are of decided benefit, anyway. Undoubtedly he is right, and other members of the association also spoke a good word for the bee, sometimes showing even a tendency to overrate the services of the busy insect in this direction. We should not expect too much of the little pollen and honey gatherer. Surely, where there are large blocks of one variety of fruit, and at quite a distance from other sorts, we cannot ask the bees to fly back and forth between widely distant trees all the time in order to save the fruit grower from the consequences of his own mistakes in planting.

Telltale Instances.

In the course of the discussions, many instances came to light apparently proving that lack of proper pollen is a very common cause of barrenness of fruit-trees. One member, who evidently was inclined to refuse this as a fact, had told of the fine crops of King apples which he had grown annually for years, while other growers around him complain that the King is a shy bearer. On further inquiry into the circumstances, it was learned that this man had his Kings mixed with Baldwins, while his neighbors had theirs in unmixed blocks. Mr. W. Boulter told of a block of four hundred Golden Russets planted by him many years ago. They have remained barren to this day, except just where a few Baldwins happened to be mixed in with

the Russets; the Baldwins and surrounding Russets have given him fruit right along. Mr. Boulter said it had never occurred to him that the Golden Russets might be self-sterile; but he thought he could now see the solution of the problem. He would at once resort to top-grafting as a presurable remedy. Northern Spy is said to be one of the self-sterile varieties. One member mentioned a local apple, the Baxter, as a very late bloomer which might be planted with the Northern Spy, to furnish the pollen.

Nurserymen and Fruit Growers.

That farmers generally are in need of more information on fruit growing is not to be doubted. The question of "How to make fruit exhibitions educative," presented in an address by R. B. Thornton, at the meeting already mentioned, brought out a general discussion about means of diffusing reliable information on the subject. The great complaint is that farmers commonly turn to the wrong source for information; namely, to the "tree agent." This class of people consists largely of young men without the least practical experience in fruit growing, and instructed to push and boom certain lines or varieties, mostly high-priced novelties. As a result of their misleading talk, the farmer fills his yards and orchards with trees and plants for which he pays a high price, and which, without being of much value themselves, take the place that others—more common and really good trees and plants—ought to occupy. People thus become disgusted with fruit growing, and far from acquiring reliable information, are misled, and directed far away from the truth. Other farmers turn to the nurserymen's catalogues for their information, and in many instances fare just as badly.

Mr. E. Morden told how, more than a year ago, he bearded the lion in his den and got worsted. He came before the American nurserymen's convention, then assembled in Niagara Falls, and addressed them on the novelty question. He asked the association to compel its members to make their catalogues a correct guide to fruit culture. He asked for a change in their methods of introducing novelties. No new thing should be sent out until after it has been tested and reported on by a number of experiment stations or substations. At least, on a close vote were declared defeated. I think I referred to these occurrences at the time, in these columns, and characterized the course that the convention leaders then took as narrow-minded and mistaken. Some reforms in both directions are needed, and the nurserymen will have to accept them sooner or later. The sooner they do it the better for them. If there is much increase in antagonism between nurserymen and the public, the latter will not be the worst sufferers. Fortunately, there is a strong element—and I believe this element to be in the majority—among the American nurserymen who are in full sympathy with a more liberal policy. The present president of the convention, Mr. J. H. Hale, surely is an earnest advocate of such a new departure. To do the most good in this land, nurserymen should have and deserve the implicit confidence of the public. Thus far, there is more distrust than confidence, and only a small minority of the nurserymen possess this invaluable gift, and I know that those who do possess it also deserve it.

T. GREINER.

THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA.

Half a century ago the growing of tobacco for market was mainly confined to the northern tier of counties in the northwestern part of the state, along the Georgia line. The highest point of production was reached about twenty-five years ago, the total product then marketed being about 1,500,000 pounds. In 1879 the total product was less than one seventieth of this amount. In 1886 a remarkable revival of the tobacco-growing industry occurred. Former experience had demonstrated that the fertile lands of Gadsden, Leon and adjoining counties were specially adapted to the culture of the finest grades of cutters, wrappers and fillers. Mr. George Storm, of the firm of Stratton & Storm, leading tobacco manufacturers of New York City, organized a company in 1887 and purchased 14,000 acres of land in Gadsden county, and appointed Mr. Wm. M. Corry manager,

and have fully demonstrated the wisdom and great profitableness of the enterprise.

Success, of course, depends largely upon not only knowing how to handle and cure tobacco, but fully as much upon adaptation of varieties to suitable soils and the most economical and best methods of fertilization.

The importance of prime seed of the kinds best adapted to the black and heavy hammock lands, suitable for growing the heavier grades for wrappers and cutters, or the light, sandy, pine lands, for producing the claro shades, which, when the leaves are properly cured, are comparatively free from nicotine, can hardly be overestimated. Major R. L. Ragland, proprietor of the Hyco, Va., Tobacco Seed Farm (now deceased), and who was famed for producing pedigree seed, did so by thinning out the seed-capsules on the stalk, so that the whole force of the plant was directed to the formation of fewer seeds of higher vitality; such, in fact, as would transmit their peculiar good qualities.

As to varieties, Prof. J. B. Lee, of the state experiment station, of Louisiana, reports that on bright mulatto, sandy soil, with red clay subsoil, the largest yield was made by Hester, followed by Ragland Improved, suitable for fine, yellow wrappers. The heavier, red, sandy soil was found to be suitable for the White Burley and for Oronoko tobacco. The Vuelta Abajo is, however, most in demand for planting on thin lands, or where the climatic conditions are very similar to those of Cuba. The Vuelta, when well grown and properly cured, is highly aromatic in flavor, and is therefore much valued for fillers. The Sumatra, which had its origin from the Cuban seed of the Vuelto Abajo district in Cuba, is a superior variety for wrappers. As the leading tobacco syndicates of Florida have their own seed-beds, it is not unlikely that some new hybrid varieties will be originated that will be equally valuable for wrappers.

The director of the state experiment station, at Lake City, could advantageously take up this much-to-be-desired work, as well as that pertaining to fertilization, so well begun by Dr. W. Frear, chemist of the Pennsylvania experiment station, who has compounded the following formula for a special tobacco fertilizer, which has proved to be one of great excellence: Dissolved bone-black, 880 pounds; carbonate of potash and magnesia, 715 pounds; and cotton-seed meal, 1,350 pounds per acre. At the Louisiana experiment station, cotton-seed meal has also been found to be a valuable fertilizer, for in a comparison of the nitrogen in cotton-seed meal with that in a mixture of nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, dried blood and fish scraps, the yield was larger with the cotton-seed meal. The value of this substance in increasing the yield of wrappers is also shown by the experiments made last year by Professor E. H. Jenkins, chemist of the Connecticut state experiment station. The largest yield of wrappers, 1,330 pounds, was obtained by using 2,720 pounds of cotton-seed meal and 1,444 pounds of cotton-hull ashes per acre.

An impression prevails to some extent in central and southern Florida that the tobaccos grown there are deficient in burning qualities, and attribute it to the absence of lime in the soil. The chemist of the Maryland experiment station has been investigating the causes which lead to the effects of different fertilizing elements on the composition and combustibility of tobacco. The corroborative conclusions of foreign investigators are cited, and the ratio of chlorin to potash in the ashes of the principal species of wood, and the principal cultivated plants in the tobacco-producing sections are given. He finds that broom-sedge and old field pine contain a relatively large proportion of chlorin, and hence he justifies the practice of allowing old fields to grow up in sedge and pine, the implication being that these plants remove a large portion of the chlorin, which is believed to have an unfavorable effect on the combustibility of tobacco. Whatever may be the cause of defective combustion, there is every reason to believe that efficient work on the part of the experiment stations will soon lead to the discovery of the cause and the formulation of a remedy.

W. M. KING.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

HOW TO UNDERDRAIN.—In a previous article the importance of underdrainage was urged. In an era of low prices for everything except labor, it does not pay to grow costly crops on land that is wet, and in the droughty areas of the past two years we may expect an abundance of rainfall soon, if we may judge the future by the past. It was suggested that the work of putting in tiles should be planned for the idle time of winter, and that if the location of the drains is mapped out with a breaking-plow, the ground in the bottom of the furrow can be handled with a ditching-spade in freezing weather. The first point is to determine the depth of the drains. This depends upon the outlet and the nature of the soil. I have seen blue clays that were so impervious to water that the most successful farmers found it advisable to lay no laterals more than eighteen inches below the surface. In ordinary stiff clays it is found that the soil will open up and allow water to escape to tiles three feet or more below the surface, but not as readily and rapidly as is desired in wet seasons, and it is now believed by many good farmers that in these stiff clays twenty-eight to thirty inches is the best practical depth of laterals. In all clayey loams and sandy soils the drain should be from thirty to thirty-six inches deep, and usually thirty-six inches is none too deep.

DEPTH AND SIZE OF MAINS.—The mains should go enough deeper than the laterals at their mouths to permit the laterals to enter the top half of the main. This gives suction, and while the main is running full, no water is backed up the laterals, keeping the ground wet. The main should be large enough to carry all the water that may be drained into it at any future time. Too often a small main is used because only partial drainage of a field is planned, and at a future time it lacks capacity to carry water from the remainder of the field that requires underdrainage as the soil grows older. The capacity of a drain depends upon the amount of fall. Three inches to one hundred feet is regarded a good fall, but anything less is not advisable if this fall is obtainable. A less grade causes the water to run in a more sluggish manner, and any unevenness in grade will permit a deposit of silt, thus decreasing the capacity of the drain. When necessary, drains may be laid with less grade than two inches to the one hundred feet, but the size of the tile for a given quantity of water to be carried must be greater, and the best of care exercised in grading the bottom of the drain. There are several rules for determining the size of mains, but at the best none are very accurate.

ESTABLISHING THE GRADE.—On all flat lands a surveyor should be employed to plat the work. He should place pegs every one hundred feet along the proposed drains, and obtain the level at each station. Then the depth of cut at those points can be determined. To get a true grade between the stations, I know of no better method than the following: Set two stakes at each peg, one on each side of the proposed drain. Then fasten a string to each of the two stakes at such distance above the top of the peg that it will be five and one half feet above the bottom of the drain when made. Knowing the depth of cut at the peg by consulting the surveyor's figures, deduct this from five and one half, and the remainder is the distance the string should be fastened above the top of the peg. When this is done at a number of stations, the strings should be in exact line, each one being five and one half feet above the bottom of the drain when finished. Then with a staff five and one half feet long, the workman can grade the bottom perfectly as at any point in the drain; when ready for the tile, the top of staff will be in exact line with all the strings. This plan insures a perfect grade in flat land, and when there is no water, it is one of the best schemes to make sure of a well-graded bottom. Even when there is an abundance of water, it is advisable to use the staff and strings, unless the fall is abundant, and a little waste does no harm. One can grade with water so as to insure the drain to carry off the water, but he may waste an inch or two of fall when there is none to spare.

SIZE OF LATERALS.—The proper size of laterals depends upon the soil. If it is very porous, so that laterals need not be placed closer than four to six rods, as is the practice in some black loams, a much larger tile is needed than in drainage of ordinary clays and clayey loams. I have never been able to see the advantage of the larger sizes of tile for laterals in ordinary work. When the laterals are placed from thirty-two to forty feet apart, as they should be in clay soil, a two-and-one-half-inch tile will do perfect work if it is laid in a workman-like manner. If the bottom is naturally soft, and there is danger of the tiles getting out of line, a larger size is better, but with a solid bottom a two-and-one-half-inch tile does perfect work for ordinary length of laterals. There is no objection to the three-inch size, as its cost is only slightly more, but nothing larger is wanted, as it makes extra cost that is useless. Slovenly workmen do well to use larger tile, as unevenness of the bottom will not be so sure to cause the drain to close with silt; but when the smaller tile is laid on an even grade it cannot fill with silt, and carries the water to the main as fast as the main can carry it off.

DETAILS.—There is a prejudice against soft-burned tile, and it is hardly safe to disregard this popular prejudice merely because factory men argue against it. They find it easier to furnish the soft tile, as there is less waste in manufacture by warping and cracking, but preference is given by most purchasers to a reasonably hard-burned article. It should ring clear, and the walls should be thick. The tiles should be laid in a groove made in the bottom of the drain by a grading-shovel. This prevents displacement when covering. The joints should be as close as possible. The first covering should be done with a shovel, and after it has been firmed by a rail, the remainder of the earth may be turned in with a breaking-plow, using only one horse, and setting the plow-clevis well to one side. Tiling is work that should never be left to careless men, or to any who are not thoroughly conscientious in their work. DAVID.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

HANDLING AND MARKETING.—The art of handling tobacco is one of the most important points in successful tobacco culture. Proper handling adds greatly to the appearance and value of the crop. On the other hand, an extra good crop may be ruined by poor handling be made to fall below the ordinary.

After the tobacco is thoroughly cured and the rainy season sets in, the grower proceeds to strip the crop. Most growers provide themselves with a stripping-room, in order that they may continue their work in cold, inclement weather without exposure. A room of this kind may be made by boarding up a twelve-foot square in one corner of the barn that is free from the bright sunlight, as very strong sunlight makes it very hard to distinguish the different grades apart. A room of this kind, with a stove in one corner, and benches about two and one half feet high placed along two sides of the room on which to place the tobacco while stripping, is good enough for all ordinary purposes.

When the tobacco comes in "case," that is, when it receives sufficient moisture from the damp air to make it pliable and tough, it is taken down from the rails and the stalks taken from the sticks and piled upon the benches with the points of the leaves toward the wall, so that the butts of the stalks are to the inside of the room, for the convenience of the operators.

The different classes of White Burley are: First, the trash; second, lugs; third, bright leaf; fourth, red leaf; fifth, tips. The trash is taken off the stalk first, and consists of the ground-leaves, which grow at the bottom of the stalk, and are inferior, flimsy and more or less damaged. When taken off the stalk, the trash can be tied immediately or dropped to the floor, to be tied at some other time. The lugs come next in order on the stalk, and are taken off and tied into "hands." They are made up of the leaves which have damaged points, ragged edges, etc., and are not good enough in body or finish for bright leaf, but too good for trash. The bright leaf consists of the bright-colored leaves about the middle

of the stalk, and is the best-selling tobacco on the market. The red leaf is heavier in body and of a darker color, as the name implies. The tips are the undeveloped leaves found at the top of the stalk.

As the different classes are stripped from the stalk and tied into hands, they are kept separate. The hands, which should not be made too large—from sixteen to eighteen leaves will make a fair-sized hand—are placed astride a stick as they are tied, placing ten hands on each stick. The different classes should be graded as to length, not only in the hands, but also on the sticks; that is, the leaves of each hand should be as nearly as possible the same length, and hands of the same length should be placed together upon the sticks. Otherwise, if no attention is paid to the sizing, the crop will have a ragged, uneven appearance. This to some may seem quite unnecessary, but the difference it will make even in the appearance of the crop will amply repay for the pains taken.

As the crop is stripped, the stripped tobacco should be either cribbed down in the center of the barn, or hung very closely on rails until the bulking season comes on, when it can be hung up or spread more loosely on the rails. This method of cribbing or crowding keeps the tobacco sweet and in good condition until warm weather, and it also holds the color better, as it is not affected by the sudden changes of the weather. The proper way to crib down tobacco is by laying it down in large piles with the butts of the hands out, leaving the points of leaves exposed as little as possible. When the crop has been stripped, the barn should have a general cleaning up.

Bulking the crop should be done the first opportunity it is found in good condition. It is a rare thing that the crop is found in good condition or in "keeping case" before warm weather, and even then it requires close watching. To be in proper condition for bulking it should be of uniform case, the points and the body of the hand being the same. It is considered in fair case when, if it is pressed together, it will open out again and not stick together; and the stems should be so that they will break easily and not be tough and pliable.

A sweat-case is considered the best and safest, and it is said by men who are good authority that a sweat-case cannot be too high for bulking in good condition. The sweat-case occurs usually on a warm, sultry morning when there are indications of a storm. This usually occurs from seven to ten o'clock in the morning, but under proper conditions the tobacco can be found in case any time during the day. As much of the crop as possible should be taken down at one time, as it is not often that the entire crop is in condition at once. When the tobacco comes in case it is cribbed down where it will be convenient to the bulking-floor. Some growers leave it cribbed for some time before bulking, but we advise bulking at once, for sometimes the dry, hot winds dry the tobacco when left thus, and it causes time and trouble to get it in condition again. The bulking is done by two or more men, one laying it on the bulking-floor five hands at a time, which are taken off the stick and handed to him by his assistant. As he lays it on the floor it is kept straight, so that the points will not be crumpled or doubled up. The bulking is done with the butts of the hands to the right, leaving the points of the hands in the center of the bulk. The bulk should be from three and one half to four feet wide and as long as needed. Each course should be kept straight, so that each side of the bulk will be perpendicular. When the bulking is finished and the bulk settles, some weight is heavily to get it as solid as possible and to hold the case. The more it is pressed the more convenient it handles when hauling it to market. When the crop has been handled properly and is in good condition it is ready for the market.

It is nearly always best to sell to the first merchant who offers a fair price, as the tobacco market is a very uncertain affair, and it rarely pays to hold a crop for higher prices. My advice is to sell to the home merchants if it is possible to do so, as the grower stands but little show in shipping

his crop to the city markets. The grower, who is not on the market but once a year, or once in several years, does not stand in with the combinations, or does not understand the "tricks in trade" as well as one who is on the market every week.

Taking it all in all, the tobacco crop is one which requires a great deal of hard work and exposure to put it through from start to finish. Taking the crop as a whole, the grower does not receive sufficient remuneration for his labor and expense at the present uncertain prices.

From 1860 to 1880 the prices ranged from twelve to fifteen and even twenty cents per pound. But that day has passed, to return no more. The vast territories opened up for tobacco culture in Kentucky, Tennessee and other southern states have overstocked the market. It is stated that there is enough tobacco on hand at the present time to supply the demand for two and one half years. If this be the case, what is the future of the tobacco market? J. F. B. Georgetown, Brown county, Ohio.

VALUE OF SOUTHERN FARM PRODUCTS.

The editor of the *Southern States Magazine*, of Baltimore, Maryland, recently published some very interesting as well as striking facts. The article states that "the total value of farm products of the South, in 1880, was \$666,000,000, against \$1,550,000,000 for the remainder of the country. In 1890 the South produced \$773,000,000, a gain of sixteen per cent, while the gain in the rest of the country was only nine per cent."

The writer also states that the average value per acre of farm products, 1889, computed from total area of land in cultivation, and total value of all farm products, is as follows:

United States.....	\$ 6.87
North Atlantic Division.....	9.88
North Central Division.....	6.03
Western Division.....	6.76
Georgia.....	8.59
Florida.....	10.54
Alabama.....	8.60
Mississippi.....	10.70
Louisiana.....	14.39
Average for these five southern states....	10.56

It will be observed from the above figures that the South is steadily growing; and without any intention of disparaging any other section of the country, it certainly is gratifying to know that the average of the five southern states above quoted is nearly sixty per cent in excess of the average of the whole United States.

It is interesting and instructive to know the following comparisons from the same writer. The average values per acre of the products of certain states are put down as follows:

Nebraska.....	\$4.33
South Dakota.....	3.16
Minnesota.....	6.40
Illinois.....	7.19
Indiana.....	6.27

It will be observed that the average value per acre of the five southern states is in excess of the five western states above quoted, and this, under all the circumstances, must be very gratifying to the people of that section of the country.

That the South is a long way behind the North and West in point of energetic, hustling business activity cannot for a single moment be denied, but the time is fast coming when the restless energy of the West will obtain to a very considerable extent in the South, and when that period arrives, the southern states can safely be counted as having entered upon a career of great prosperity.

My Back

Arms and limbs are stiff and lame and it is misery for me to move. This is rheumatism, caused by lactic acid in the blood.

"I have been suffering with rheumatism in my left arm and shoulder, which was rendered entirely helpless. I am able to use them again since taking Hood's Sarsaparilla." MRS. C. E. SAY, Box 414, Junction City, Kansas.

Hood's

Sarsaparilla

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Hood's Pills cure all Liver Ills. 25 cents.

Our Farm.

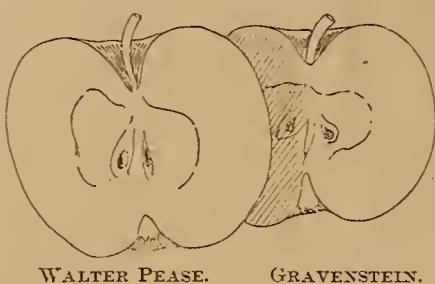
NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

SEED OF EMERALD GEM MELON.—This time somebody asks me to forward catalogue for 1896, and also a few seeds of the Emerald Gem melon, mentioned in my notes in issue of December 1st. Let me state that I do not issue a catalogue, nor do I pretend to grow and sell seeds. The Emerald Gem is a good one, and seed can be had of almost any leading seedsman. I grow an abundance of these melons for our own (home) use, and some to spare. But I never save seeds of them, not even from extra nice specimens, preferring to buy my seed from some trustworthy seedsman. Usually I buy several years' supply all at once. I like to have plenty of this seed on hand. After I have tried it one year, I know the next year exactly what I have, and the seed, if well kept, is good for a number of years. The reason for buying seed instead of raising it is that I do not grow it largely enough in a separate patch, but have other sorts, and cucumbers, too, growing together not very far apart. If I would gather and plant this seed, the Emerald Gem might come true, and just as likely it might not. Different varieties of muskmelons cross-fertilize (mix) very readily, and cucumbers and melons, in rare instances, will also hybridize. The effect of this crossing and hybridizing cannot be seen until the second year in the offspring. I do not like to run such risks. I want to be sure to have the true Emerald Gem. If I grew them in larger patches, and had no other melons or cucumbers very close to them, it would be safe to plant the seed of my own gathering, but not otherwise. Our leading seedsmen have such seeds grown for them with great care, and in fields of many acres. Usually this seed is pure and reliable. This is why I buy mine. Our friends, when making up their seed orders, will do well to include an ounce or a quarter pound, and then have it ready for use. To have the crop last for as long a period as possible, we must sow early under glass, transplanting (in boxes, pots or inverted sods) to open field by June 1st, and then sow again in open ground the latter part of June or first of July.

IMMATURE POTATOES FOR SEED.—I shall soon be able to satisfy myself concerning the value of "second-crop" immature seed. Mr. James Nimon, of Texas, the originator of Parker Earle and the runnerless strawberries, has sent me a lot of small potatoes (Triumph and Peerless), which are the twelfth generation grown in six years, and I have promised to grow them by the side of the same varieties from ordinary northern-grown seed. He tells me that he has planted only the small potatoes of the same stock for seed for six years, making two crops each year, or twelve crops in the six years. Much of the seed planted has only been of about the size of marbles. A lot of such small tubers (Triumph) were included in the seed-potatoes sent me, as he desires me to see for myself what strong-growing plants these small potatoes will produce. I have had a taste of this already, the past season. I had a lot of stunted (true) "second-crop" seed of just about marble size (of my own growing), and planted this in the same field with all my strong growers, the Carmans among them. The growth of the plants and the yield of the tubers were all that could be desired. I anticipate much pleasure from testing the twelfth generation of such seed, however. If there is any tendency of running out by the continued planting of immature or imperfectly developed second-crop seed, it ought to show very plainly in the twelfth generation. Mr. Nimon has not cared to affirm that he has noticed any such result. This indicates that such a tendency is not very strong, if it exists at all. I can tell more about it, I hope, next fall.

TWO BEST FALL APPLES FOR THE NORTH.—In last issue of the NEW YORK FARM AND FIRESIDE I mentioned a new apple, the "Walter Pease," specimens of which had been sent me for testing by Fred E. Young, a Rochester nurseryman. This is a remarkably handsome fruit, somewhat resembling Baldwin or Spy, and of the very highest quality. Its season is September, October, and perhaps part of November. The tree is claimed to be of strong growth

and productive. If this claim is well founded, I think we have in this Walter Pease an exceedingly valuable fruit, both for home use and commercial purposes, and it will be worth while to try it, anyway. Cross-section of one of the specimens is shown in the left figure of the accompanying illustration. The apple cross-section of which is shown at the right hand is the Gravenstein, a fall apple of almost the same season, perhaps a little earlier, which has always been my ideal as to quality. During my visit at the meeting of the Ontario (Canada) fruit growers, I have heard this apple mentioned repeatedly, and always in terms of the highest appreciation. Prof. Saunders, director of the Canadian experimental farms, agreed with me in calling the Gravenstein about the best apple, for dessert as well as for cooking, that is known. It succeeds over a wide range of territory. Wm. C. Barry, of



Rochester, wrote me that anything I could do to make this apple better known and appreciated would be a benefit to the public. It deserves more attention than it has heretofore received. It should surely be in every home orchard. No doubt about its quality. It is best. No doubt about its reliability. The tree, though spreading, is an abundant and regular bearer. No doubt about the beauty of the fruit. No apple could look more beautiful than the well-ripened Gravenstein. No doubt about its value in the market. It will sell at top prices. What more would you want of an apple? I learn that red sports of the Gravenstein have appeared simultaneously in different parts of the world, and at least one of them is said to be quite a little later. This is good news, as it will tend to extend the season of this most desirable apple.

T. GREINER.

SOUTHERN SWEET POTATO CULTURE.

A Tallahassee paper recently published a very interesting article upon the question of the cultivation and marketing of sweet potatoes. This article was particularly interesting, as it seemed to have been inspired by a very practical mind, and the statistics furnished are certainly well worth placing before our readers.

The paper states that Mr. Sherwood, a northern man, raised in New York, and for many years a resident of Michigan, moved to Florida a few years ago and located near Tallahassee.

Mr. Sherwood believed there was big money in raising sweet potatoes for marketing, and accordingly applied himself to that industry. He says, "The first year I fooled away the crop in learning where, how and when to ship, and getting at the approximate cost of the product." As the result of this experience, he now states definitely that sweet potatoes can be raised in that country for less than eleven cents per bushel, and yet all the season he has been unable to buy them for less than forty cents per bushel. In other words, he published, as the result of his own application and experience, that an ordinary farmer, understanding the cultivation of the soil, can make a net profit of twenty-nine cents per bushel on this article.

Mr. Sherwood also states that the sweet potato requires less cultivation, probably, than any other crop, and is more easily harvested. He also states as another advantage that it is a product that need not be rushed off to market, but can be properly taken care of and sold at such times as the demand may indicate.

It is a well-authenticated fact that almost any land in Leon and Wakulla Counties, in Western Florida, may be made to produce from 250 to 400 bushels of sweet potatoes per acre, and Mr. Sherwood states that he sees no reason why, upon this one product alone, a farmer should not reap very satisfactory results. Taking an average product of 300 bushels to the acre, and at twenty-nine cents per bushel, the net profit would be \$87 per acre.

We have published in the last two issues of the FARM AND FIRESIDE various letters from farmers of Leon and Wakulla Counties, showing what has been done and what can be done, so far as the production of sweet potatoes and other vegetables is concerned, and we refer our readers to the columns of those papers for information upon this subject.

Orchard and Small Fruits.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED

BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

Pine-wood Ashes.—T. A. M., Charleston, S. C. The ashes from yellow pine, like all wood ashes, are a very good fertilizer for fruit-trees, provided they have not been leached or exposed to rains. Yellow pine ashes are probably better than those from white pine, and one analysis shows them as rich in potash as those from many hard woods.

The Borsdorf Apple Again.—A subscriber from Minnesota thinks I have praised the hardiness of the Borsdorf apple too highly. It is not as hardy as Hiberna or Borovinka, Duchess of Oldenburg or some other Russian kinds, but I think it as hardy as the Wealthy, and is certainly hardy enough for the great apple-growing sections, and it fruits very well in favorable locations, even in Minnesota.

Fertilizer for the Quince.—A. P. F., Brockton, Mass. It is probable that your quince orchard is in soil that is good enough without much manure. I think, however, that the use of a little potash would be desirable, and suggest that you use about two pounds of kainite or some other similar potash compound around each tree. New England soils often respond more quickly to this element than to any other, and it encourages early maturity of the wood, and fruitfulness. It can be obtained of fertilizer dealers.

Kieffer Pear Cuttings.—J. C., Lockington, Ohio. Kieffer pear cuttings should be made at once of the new growth wood, about ten inches long. Heel in sand in a cold cellar. By spring they should show a callous on the lower end, and should then be planted out in a warm but not hot bed, and given plenty of ventilation and kept cool on top. But do not put them into the hotbed until calloused. If not calloused in spring, heel them in the ground outside, with the butts up, and cover with three inches of soil. On this put a foot or more of hot manure, so as to warm the butts. Allow them to remain in this position until calloused, but not long enough to get rooted, for if rooted, the roots may be broken off when moved.

Apple-blight.—C. F. R., Endora, Kan. Some varieties of the apple-blight are worse than others. If the kinds you have are disposed to blight before fruiting, it is very certain that they will blight to death when they begin to bear. I should dig them out and replace them with some of the blight-resisting varieties, such as Duchess of Oldenburg, Hiberna, Breskorka, Longfield and Anisim, which seem to be adapted to a dry, cold climate, with hot summers. Your treatment of cutting off the blighted branches is all that can be done to stop the spread of the disease, if you intend to keep the trees.

Gum on Peach-trees—Loose Buds—Wood on Bark of Buds.—D. H. S., Ionia, Mich. Gum is very apt to gather on wounds made on peach-trees; it is often seen in large bunches where borers are at work in the trees. Sometimes trees, when they become diseased, produce a great deal of gum in the crotches and around wounds. In your case I hardly think it necessarily indicates any disease, and I think it may be due to the excessively rapid growth of the stocks at the time they were budded. At this season the bark and bud inserted should be grown solidly to the stock. Those that are loose will probably die out during winter. It is often very hard to tell why some of the buds are loose, as it might result from a variety of causes, such as the buds being cut with too much or too little wood in them, not tying tight enough, weak condition of the stock, or, in fact, any unfavorable cause. It is not necessary to leave any wood on the bark inserted, but I have generally been most successful when leaving it so. However, some very successful propagators take the wood out of the bud. I sometimes take it out if the bud is large and the wood quite hard. In any case, the wood should not be taken out unless it separates easily from the bark.

Fall Growth in Apple-trees.—M. T., Dispatch, Kan. Your trees will not necessarily die because they started new growth in September, although it is a very unfortunate thing to have happen. If they had time to partially ripen up their wood in October, they may come through the winter in good shape. It would be a good plan, however, to wrap the trunks and lower limbs with a hay rope, burlap or other material, to protect them from too severe freezing, or from frequent freezing and thawing. This treatment is a great help to trees in severe winters. If the grasshoppers come in clouds, it is very difficult, if not out of the question, for one individual to protect anything from them, and the state should intervene and fight them, as several states have done. If there are only a small number of grasshoppers, spraying the foliage of the tree with Paris green and water, at the rate of one pound of Paris green to 150 gallons of water, will prevent their doing serious injury. If their other food material also is sprayed with this, so much the better. I think, also, that spraying the foliage with Bordeaux mixture having a little Paris green in its composition would possibly keep them off under any circumstances. I would try it. Use Bordeaux mixture made of five pounds of lime, five pounds of blue vitriol and fifty gallons of water; but if only one half the amount of water is used, it might be a greater protection.

The Peach in Northern Latitudes.—F. L. M., Skowhegan, Me. Peaches are unreliable in the more northern states, but on account of their easy culture, early bearing, and profitability when a crop is realized, they are planted to a considerable extent, especially on high land in favorable locations. The weak point with the peach is its fruit-buds, which in even the hardest varieties will seldom stand over twenty degrees below zero; also, they expand early in spring and are liable to be frozen. The leaf-buds, however, will stand much more cold than this. In Massachusetts peach growers average about one crop in four years in good locations. On rich soil they are much more tender than on rather inferior land, on account of their not maturing their growth in the former situation. The trees cost so very little that you could try them without much expense. Perhaps the Crosby is as hardy as any of the varieties. In Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and other severe situations peaches are grown by bending the trees to the ground in autumn and covering with a foot or more of corn-stalks until spring, when they are raised. This covering is better than earth, which some years rots the buds. Another way is to plant the trees eight feet apart in a square block and prune them close. Over this, on the approach of winter, stretch strong wires two feet apart, well supported, and cover these with mulch and protect the sides with hay or boughs.



When a young couple runs away to get married half the world says: "How Romantic!" the other half says: "How silly!" But you can't tell either way until the "honey-moon" is over. When this young couple get settled down to the regular hum-drum of life, they'll manage all right and find solid happiness in any case, if they have good hearts and sound health. All depends on that.

It's wonderful how much health has to do with married happiness. Sickness affects the temper. You can't be happy nor make others happy if you're ailing. When you find yourself irritable, easily worried, beginning to "run-down" it's because your blood is getting poor. You need richer blood and more of it. Your blood-making organs need to be vitalized by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It imparts new power to produce an abundance of the healthy, red corpuscles, and gives you a fresh supply of pure, rich blood. It's a blood-creator; it is for everyone whose blood is impure or in a poor, "run-down" condition. It prevents the germs of disease from getting a hold on your system. Even after disease is settled on you, it is driven out by the blood-creating properties of the "Discovery." It is a perfect cure for general and nervous debility, catarrh, malaria, eczema, erysipelas, scrofula and every form of blood-disease. It isn't called a consumption-cure but even consumption, which has its roots in the blood—is driven out by the "Golden Medical Discovery" if taken in time. The "Discovery" is the prescription of one of the most eminent physicians and medical writers in this country.

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Mention this paper.

Our Farm.

DELAINE MERINO SHEEP.

It is time to correct the impression that so generally prevails even among intelligent people that there are no mutton breeds of sheep in this country that do not run back to an English origin. Only a few days ago a superintendent of sheep at a recent state fair spoke of Merino sheep and mutton sheep, and would not admit that Merino sheep were in any sense recognized as possessing any specific mutton characteristics. The same view was taken by a well-informed and highly popular secretary of a British mutton-sheep association.

It is quite generally understood that there is a type of Merino sheep known as "Delaine," but as the word delaine suggests fleece qualities, it is generally supposed that this type (we ought to say types, to do justice to these sheep) produces delaine wool, a valuable combing-wool much prized by woolen manufacturers. A few years ago, when this type of a Merino began to be popular, the name meant about all that was intended by their breeders. At that time a mutton sheep was not so popular as now, and no one thought it important, if indeed possible, to convert the American Merino into a first-class mutton producer, preferring to continue this famous historic breed as a wool producer as it had been with one exception for thousands of years, or as far back as we have any history or tradition gives any account of them.

This one exception, the French Merino, or better known as the Rambouillet, was an experiment, or rather, the continuance of an experiment, begun a great many years before 1786, when Louis XVI., king of France, by royal permission, procured some Spanish Merino sheep, placed them in care of a most competent and scientific commission, to develop a mutton and wool sheep that might meet every want of the French agriculturists. It was the aim and purpose of the originators of the American Delaine sheep to produce a sheep bearing a similar or better fleece than the Rambouillet of France, and forgetting the mutton qualities of that wonderful breed.

DELAINE MERINO NOT A CROSS-BREED.

To-day there are those who take it for granted that a Delaine Merino is a cross-bred with a Merino foundation, and so built up as to retain a goodly share of the Merino character, and, to be fair, so carefully bred as not to show a trace of the sire side of the original. All this is false, as any one will find who investigates the breeding of these sheep.

There are half a dozen or more strains of Merino sheep under the several names, with a record association behind them, resembling each other quite as much as the several branches of the Down family, and each with the claim of "Delaine" strongly proclaimed in their several literature. It is a fact that not a drop of foreign or coarse-wool blood runs in the veins of any one of these strains; all are of pure Merino origin, and all are as carefully bred and show as much thoroughbred style and character as any breed of domestic animals in the world.

THE AMERICAN MUTTON MERINO SHEEP.

The Delaine Merinos are in this new era of sheep husbandry, including the Rambouillet, which it resembles very closely in every way, the true American mutton Merino sheep, and should be so recognized by everybody.

A SOUTHDOWN SHEEP WITH A MERINO FLEECE ON IT.

To say that a Delaine Merino sheep is a Southdown with a Merino covering is not admitted by the fanciers of British mutton sheep, but there is not a more correct description possible for these sheep. In size, form, early maturity and feeding qualities there is a striking resemblance, and no fair-minded observer can differ in this opinion. The quantity and quality of mutton in a two-year-old is so nearly alike that no butcher offers an objection to a well-fatted Merino as compared with the famous Southdown.

The time was, as intimated before, when a Delaine fleece represented this strain of a Merino sheep, and it is claimed here, we go on record as insisting, that the time has come when a revision of the verdict is

called for, and the various Delaine record associations shall follow the Dickinson Delaine Merino sheep breeders in advocating the highest and best mutton qualities in connection with their superior fleece character.

We insist upon this in behalf of the inevitable success of American mutton-sheep raising of the present and future. Let them be called by the right name, and they will soon be recognized by fair associations and everybody else.

R. M. BELL.

TOBACCO CULTURE IN FLORIDA.

In a recent issue we took occasion to call the especial attention of our readers to the prominence which Florida has assumed as a tobacco-raising state. In our last issue there was published, under the auspices of the Clark Syndicate Companies in Florida, many very interesting facts and statistics with reference to the development of the tobacco industry in Leon County.

Mr. Archie James, a well-known tobacco expert, states, in the *Jacksonville Citizen*, that "The future of Florida as a tobacco-raising state is exceedingly bright. I have been in the tobacco business for many years, namely, in Virginia and North Carolina, but I have traveled in eleven states and have examined the soil in each. I am prepared to say that it is impossible to find any better soil for tobacco culture in the United States than Florida possesses, and especially in Leon County."

The *Tavares Herald* in a recent issue says:

"The crop in 1893 grown in Middle Florida alone aggregated more than 1,000,000 pounds, and the writer predicts that within a very few years that section will increase its annual product to 10,000,000 pounds."

The same paper also says: "It is perfectly safe now to count on \$150 to \$200 per acre profit, which will increase as the article is better handled and becomes established in the markets."

We call special attention to these statements in view of the fact that the Clark Syndicate Companies are arranging to put upon the market forty-acre farms, the soil of which is specially adapted to the cultivation of tobacco, and in a section of the state where there are ample facilities for cheap transportation to an immediate market.

RED WILLOW COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

I have read so much about that county that I thought a little of my ten years' experience farming there—from the spring of '84 to the spring of '94—might be of some interest.

In the spring of '84 I built a sod house, broke 40 acres and planted to corn, which made over 1,500 bushels of fine corn. In '85, this 40 sown to wheat made 26 bushels per acre. Forty acres broken up and planted to corn made 28 bushels per acre. In '86, first 40 acres broken planted to corn made 58 bushels per acre; second 40 broken sown to wheat made 32 bushels per acre. Twenty broken up and planted to corn made 33 bushels per acre. In '87, 50 acres of corn made 32 bushels, 30 of wheat made 16 bushels, and 20 of oats made 37 bushels per acre. Twenty acres broken up and planted to corn made 21 bushels per acre. In '88, 60 acres of corn made 63 bushels, 30 acres of wheat made 24 bushels, and 30 acres of oats made 58 bushels per acre. Twenty acres broken up and planted to corn made 32 bushels per acre. In '89, 70 acres of corn made 59 bushels, 25 acres of wheat made 23 bushels, 25 of oats made 46, and 20 of rye made 27 bushels per acre. In '90, 70 acres of corn made 9 bushels, 25 of wheat made 6, 25 of oats made 11 bushels, and 20 of rye made 7 bushels per acre.

In '91, 70 acres of corn made 76 bushels, 25 of wheat made 39 bushels, 25 acres of oats made 86 bushels, and 20 of rye made 43 bushels per acre.

In '92, 70 acres of corn made 78 bushels, 25 of wheat made 33 bushels, 25 of oats made 76 bushels, and 20 of rye made 36 bushels per acre.

In '93, 70 acres of corn made 17 bushels, 25 of wheat made 9 bushels, 25 of oats made 18 bushels, and 20 of rye made 11 bushels per acre. I plowed deep and cultivated in the best manner known to me. I raised the best potatoes and other vegetables there that I ever raised any place. I made a forty-gallon barrel of kraut with 26 heads of cabbage. 1,000 bushels of onions were raised on one and one third acres in 1892, and they brought 85 cents per bushel. The finest orchard I ever saw is there. There are fifteen acres in it. There is more fine weather there than any other place I ever lived. The climate is healthful. While there my doctor bill did not exceed \$1 per year. I knew a goodly number who went there with the asthma, some bad cases, but never heard of a single case that the climate failed to cure. I enjoyed life better there, made more, and did it easier than any other place I ever lived, and just as soon as I can sell out here, I shall make a "hee line" for Red Willow county. If any one wants to know more about that country, let him write to Wm. Coleman, McCook, Neb., Box 13, and send a two-cent stamp. He has farmed there fifteen years, and is also agent for a large amount of land.

J. JOHNSON.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM ARIZONA.—As I have read of the severe storms and cold weather throughout the North and East, I have learned to appreciate Arizona more than ever. The signal-service report for November shows that the lowest the mercury reached here is 34° above zero. Oceans of roses and other flowers are seen on every hand, while we are still eating luscious peaches, strawberries, melons, tomatoes, grapes, etc. Grapes and peaches are about gone for this season. The Hon. White-lay Reid, editor of the *New York Tribune*, has rented a house in our city for the winter, and is now here with his family. In an interview with your correspondent this morning, December 3, 1895, he said: "The climate here is wonderful, and I am gaining in strength quite rapidly. I take quite an interest in this territory, and am quite willing to believe it has a great future. The West is peculiarly progressive, more so than the East. I wrote a friend to-day, who had written me commiserating me on my life in Arizona, that I was very comfortably settled in a two-story brick house, electric lights, hot and cold water, my own carriage in which to drive, electric-cars two blocks off, while I spend my resting hours overcoatless, sitting in the sunshine." Much more he said commendatory of Arizona, present and prospectively. Yesterday we were invited out to a ranch. After a royal dinner, we went out to the orchards and gathered oranges, peaches and figs. For dinner we had most luscious corn, gathered out of the field that morning. Your correspondent, who is five feet, eight inches high, stood up by a row of peas that came to his shoulders, full of blossoms, and our friend assured us he expected them to produce matured peas. There are 30,000 head of cattle in this valley fattening for the market. The output of Arizona's mines for 1895 will reach about \$20,000,000. Thus, you see, climate is not all we have.

Phoenix, Arizona.

A. J. S.

FROM MINNESOTA.—Lyon county is one of the best and most fertile sections of the state. I am now marketing farm produce. I make two trips a day, five to seven miles, hauling sixty to seventy-five bushels of wheat or flax on sled at one load. We raise wheat, oats, barley and corn (and flax on new breaking). Nearly every farm is half a section, 320 acres. On such farms this year we threshed from 5,000 to 9,000 bushels of grain; wheat yielded twenty-seven to thirty bushels, and oats and barley from forty to seventy bushels per acre. Vegetables were an enormously large crop; and scores of bushels of them rotted on the ground for lack of mouths to eat them. We sold twenty bushels of apples at a dollar a bushel. I write this last item to show that we can grow apples on these western prairies. Small fruit is grown in great abundance. We get fine honey off the goldenrod. Unimproved land sells at from \$5 to \$15 per acre, according to location; improved farms from \$10 to \$40 per acre, according to location and improvements. There are some farms on which the mortgages are near maturity, which could be bought for a little more than the cost of buildings and other improvements.

Russel, Minn.

L. G.

FROM IOWA.—This is called a fine farming country. It looked rather streaked last year, as the rain came so unevenly. The average is very low compared with former years. There were late frosts and high winds, two new elements to contend with. There is considerable feeding going on south of us, where they raised big crops. It is hard to find a good cow for sale, as the feeders have them all. Alfalfa is being tried, with good results, in our section. Egyptian corn, also, will be a future crop, as it is a fine crop here and good feed for everything.

M. L. P.

Underwood, Pottawattamie county, Iowa.

A THOUGHT THAT KILLED A MAN!

He thought that he could trifle with disease. He was run down in health, felt tired and worn out, complained of dizziness, biliousness, backaches and headaches. His liver and kidneys were out of order. He thought to get well by dosing himself with cheap pills. And then came the ending. He fell a victim to Bright's disease! The money he ought to have invested in a safe, reliable remedy went for a tombstone. The thought that killed this man

HAS KILLED OTHERS.

Statistics show that 90 per cent of the deaths from pneumonia, Bright's disease and similar complaints are caused from derangements of the liver and kidneys. These great organs keep the blood pure and in healthful motion. When they get out of order the blood becomes poisoned, the circulation impeded and the whole system speedily breaks down. It is

A DANGEROUS IDEA

to imagine that pills can strike at the root of these diseases. It has been thoroughly proved that such remedies are worse than useless. There is only one remedy which can always be depended upon. This remedy alone can act on the liver and kidneys when they are out of order, clear out the system and build up the health. The name of this remedy is Warner's Safe Cure. It is the only standard remedy in the world for kidney and liver complaints. It is the only remedy which physicians universally prescribe. It is the only remedy that is backed by the testimony of thousands whom it has relieved and cured.

There is nothing else that can take its place.

Beeman's—THE ORIGINAL Pepsin Gum



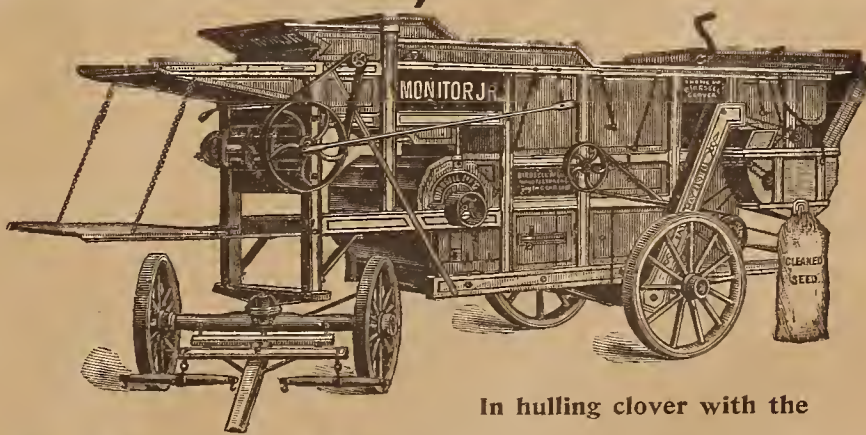
CAUTION.—See that the name Beeman is on each wrapper.

The Perfection of Chewing Gum

And a Delicious Remedy for Indigestion and Sea Sickness. Send 5c. for sample package. Beeman Chemical Co. 89 Lake St., Cleveland, O.

Originators of Pepsin Chewing Gum.

NO DUST, NO DIRT



In hulling clover with the

New Birdsell Monitor Jr. Clover Huller WITH FEEDER AND WIND STACKER ATTACHED.

The latest and best labor saving devices yet offered for use on the farm. Something that every thresherman and farmer will appreciate. The Feeder and Wind Stacker are our own invention, no royalties to pay; they can be attached to any Monitor Jr. Huller built since 1881. Write for descriptive catalogue, prices and terms.

BIRDSSELL MFG. CO., SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.

Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

TOO MUCH ON LIMITED CAPITAL.

CONCENTRATING the capital to a small area, and doing business in a manner so as to secure more than is possible, is a source of failure to some. What we mean is that those who build large poultry-houses do so upon an estimate that the houses must accommodate a certain number of fowls under all circumstances? It is seldom that we find too much house for the fowls, but it is a very common occurrence to find too many hens in a house. Some poultrymen who pay largely for their experience in the end seem to labor under the supposition that in order to secure the greatest number of eggs they must keep more hens than they have room for. The fact is that in many cases one half the number of hens on the space would produce more eggs and at a much less expense. This mistake is not confined to the inexperienced only, for the tendency is to keep a full house of fowls, even by those who should know better. Recently a poultryman presented a plan of a poultry-house and yards which combined many excellent advantages, the house being divided into two apartments, each apartment being twelve by sixteen feet. He inquired how many fowls we consider the proper number for each apartment. We informed him that we believed the best results would be obtained by allowing plenty of room, and that twenty fowls would not be too many. He promptly replied that he based his estimate on forty or fifty fowls and could not possibly reduce the number, as his capital was limited, and he must have the number of fowls for which he had estimated. Filling a poultry-house with hens and crowding them together will not conduce to egg production. It is not the one with the largest flocks who derives the best results, but the one who manages properly. Food may be given bountifully and liberally, but it will not make the hens lay if the other conditions are not observed. It requires more capital to provide plenty of room for a flock, but the capital will be better invested than if buildings are used in which the hens are too numerous and in which they do not thrive.

HENS IN CONFINEMENT.

When the hens have their liberty they will not only have more exercise, but also secure a portion of their food. The point will be to learn how not to feed; that is, how to avoid giving too much. Poultrymen are usually kind to their hens when they take an interest and pleasure in poultry, and cannot resist the temptation to feed them more than should be given, and they fail to make a distinction between hens in confinement and those having a range. By observing the flock it will be easy to judge of the requirements of the hens. If they should have been able to pick up a large share of food, they will have full crops, or partially so, and they might have eaten and digested quite a quantity during the day, consequently the meal at night should be light, nothing being given them in the morning.

BONES AND OYSTER-SHELLS.

The lime in the food should be sufficient to provide all that is required for the shells of the eggs, but a large number of farmers use ground oyster-shells or sea-shells to provide both food and lime, but we prefer green bones, fresh from the butcher, which may be cut with a bone-cutter. Oyster-shells, clam-shells, chalk, marble and limestone are almost identically the same in composition, being carbonate of lime. Bones are phosphate of lime, and are easily utilized by the fowls, being more soluble after eating. It is well known that dogs eat large pieces of bone which are digested, but the use of shells or marble by them would result in death. The hen, however, can utilize ground shells, as her gizzard is constructed to permit her to reduce the hardest substances to impalpable powder. Bones are as easily digested by the hen as by the dog, because her gizzard completely pulverizes them. When green bones are used for poultry, a certain proportion of meat is secured, and there is also a percentage of blood (nitrogenous

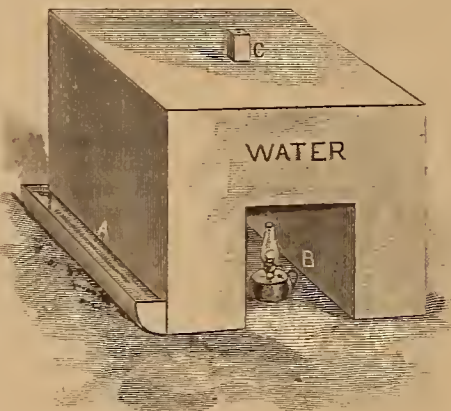
food) in the green bone which does not exist in shells; hence, by the use of bones one secures excellent food for providing the albumen of the eggs as well as the lime for the shells, the green bones, therefore, being superior to all other substances that can be supplied to laying hens in the winter.

CORN AND EGGS.

Corn will be cheap this year, as this country has produced an extraordinarily large crop, and its low price will bring it into use more largely for poultry. It is probably true, as claimed by some, that corn has done more damage to farmers, so far as the production of eggs is concerned, than can be estimated, and that less corn would result in more eggs. In England, where corn is not used to a great extent, and where barley and oats take its place, there is a higher average of eggs from the hens than in this country, due to the varied foods allowed. The farmer who has corn will feed it and has faith in it. He knows that corn is the greatest blessing the farmer has, and that all classes of stock relish it; yet it would be well for farmers to consider that while corn has no superior for fattening the stock, it is not a suitable food for producing eggs, unless used with other foods. As the winter is fully on us, and the weather is cold, corn will warm the bodies of the fowls and greatly assist in egg production. Corn and a variety of food should be the rule in winter.

KEEPING THE WATER WARM.

The design is of a zinc or galvanized-iron vessel, of any preferred size, filled with water, a space being let in and soldered, to permit of the use of a little night-lamp, so as to simply prevent freezing of the water. A is a flap, soldered to the can, into which the water flows for drinking. B shows the lamp, and C the tube on top for filling



the can. Handles may be attached to the can for lifting or carrying. If the lamp is set well back under the cau, the fowls will not disturb it.

MEAT THAT IS WASTED.

A large quantity of excellent meat suitable for poultry is wasted in the country every year. Old horses that are intended for destruction are as suitable as ordinary beef for poultry. More money can be realized from a useless horse by taking off his hide, feeding the meat, and using the bones for fertilizer, than by any other mode of disposing of them. Any kind of meat will answer for poultry. In Texas, rabbits are used because they are plentiful. Horses that go to the rendering-establishment, are converted into "ground meat" and sold in that form. They can be used to better advantage when the meat is fresh. A bone-cutter will reduce both bones and meat to a fineness suitable for poultry, and increase the number of eggs. In winter, such meat will keep for a long time. It pays better to use horses for a large flock than to buy grain, as the extra number of eggs secured will more than return the cost of the meat. Meat will induce the hens to lay when other foods fail. Give more meat, but avoid that which is very fat.

WARM WATER.

The best tonic is warm water early in the morning, and if the hens are healthy, with good appetites, they will not require any stimulating food. When they droop, it may be necessary to give them some kind of tonic in the drinking-water; but for a short time only, as harm may result from the indiscriminate use of drugs. A teaspoonful of tincture of iron in half a gallon of drinking-water is an excellent tonic and invigorator.

FOR IRRITATION OF THE THROAT caused by Cold or use of the voice "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are exceedingly beneficial.

ENSILAGE IN WINTER.

One of the best modes of feeding bran and middlings (or any ground grain) is to mix the materials with finely cut hay, scalded. What may be termed "cow feed" is excellent for hens, provided the bulky food is cut fine for them. Last winter we saw on a large dairy farm a flock of hens eating ensilage with avidity. They picked the pieces and enjoyed the change from dry, concentrated food to the succulent green material. It will cheapen the cost of keeping poultry if the grains are fed with bulky food, though it is always well to use some whole grain mixed with litter to induce the hens to scratch and work.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A REMEDY FOR ROUP.—I notice in your November issue that you claim there is no sure cure for roup. Here is one that I have used successfully, and it has never failed with me. Equal parts of lamp-oil and lard, adding twenty drops of carbolic acid to two spoonfuls. Mix well, and apply twice a day. L. D. Branford, Fla.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Crosses.—A. L., Antioch, Neb., writes: "Is it of any advantage to cross Plymouth Rocks and Black Langshans?"

REPLY:—Pure breeds always give the best results. Crossing is going backward, the flock soon degenerating to mongrels.

Sores on Heads.—J. E. H., Sedgwick, Kan., writes: "My chickens are troubled with sores on eyes and bills. Otherwise they are apparently well."

REPLY:—Anoint with vaseline once a day, adding a teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine to an ounce of vaseline.

Rye for Poultry.—C. R. B., Bethel, Pa., writes: "Is rye suitable food for poultry in any season of the year?"

REPLY:—Green rye is used early in the spring and late in the fall. The grain may be used at any time, but should be fed three or four times a week as a change.

Lice.—Mrs. M. S. S., Stockbridge, Wis., writes: "Lice have become an intolerable nuisance in our poultry-house. How can we get rid of them?"

REPLY:—Burn four pounds of sulphur in the house, first closing all cracks, and keep the house closed for two hours. Then saturate every part with kerosene.

Disinfecting.—G. A., Albion, Mich., writes: "Please give a cheap disinfecting liquid that can be sprayed or applied with a watering-can."

REPLY:—Dissolve one pound of copperas and one of bluestone (sulphate of copper) in ten gallons of hot water, and add two gills of sulphuric acid. It will cost but little, and is excellent.

Canary Molting.—E. B., Chase, Wis., writes: "My canary-bird has been pulling his feathers, his breast being bare, and he does not sing."

REPLY:—Look closely for lice, and dust him with insect-powder. If there are no lice, change the food, giving a variety of seed. Sometimes the difficulty is caused by being in too high condition.

Take Care

of your leather with Vacuum Leather Oil. Get a can at a harness- or shoe-store, 25c a half-pint to \$1.25 a gallon; book "How to Take Care of Leather," and swob, both free; use enough to find out; if you don't like it, take the can back and get the whole of your money.

Sold only in cans, to make sure of fair dealing everywhere—handy cans. Best oil for farm machinery also. If you can't find it, write to VACUUM OIL COMPANY, Rochester, N. Y.

INCUBATORS 2c. stamp for \$6.00 catalogue. Address, S. Howard Merryman, Bosley, Md.

CRUSHED OYSTER SHELLS for Poultry. 100-lb. bag, 60 cents; five, \$2.50; ten, \$4.50. Per ton, \$3.00. E. N. LEETE, Leete's Island, Conn.

SUNNYSIDE POULTRY FARM Leghorns, Wyandottes, B. P. Rocks, \$1.00 per 13; Minorcas and Red Caps, \$2.00 per 13. Circular. H. T. ANDERSON & CO., Natrona, Pa.

LICE and Mites on Poultry, Stock and Horse Plants easily and thoroughly removed. No dusting, greasing or handling. Agents everywhere. 16-page circular free. We want your name. LEE & SON, Exeter, Neb.

TRY US. We sell your Poultry, Veals, Fruits and all produce at highest prices. DAILY RETURNS. For stencils, prices and references, write F. I. SAGE & SONS, 183 Reade St., N. Y.

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FINE BLOODED Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry, Sporting Dogs. Send stamps for catalogue, 150 engravings. N. P. BOYER & CO., Coatesville, Pa.

\$5 Hand Bone, Shell, and Corn Mills for Poultrymen. Daisy Bone Cutter, Power Mills. Circular and testimonials free. WILSON BROS., Easton, Pa.

Incubators & Brooders Best in the world, hot water, pipe system. Will hatch chicks when others fail. Catalogue free. Shoemaker Incubator Co., Freeport, Ill. U. S. A.

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THE MOST SUCCESSFUL REMEDY FOR MAN OR BEAST Certain in its effects and never blisters. Read proofs below.

KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE

BLUEPOINT, L. I., N. Y., Jan. 15, 1894. Dr. B. J. KENDALL, Co.—I bought a splendid bay horse some time ago with a spavin. I got him for \$30. I used Kendall's Spavin Cure. The spavin is gone now and I have been offered \$150 for the same horse. I only had him nine weeks, so I got \$120 for using \$2 worth of Kendall's Spavin Cure. W. S. MARSDEN.

KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE

SHELBY, Mich., Dec. 16, 1893. Dr. B. J. KENDALL, Co.—I have used your Kendall's Spavin Cure with good success for Curb on two horses and it is the best liniment I have ever used. AUGUST FREDRICK.

Price \$1 per Bottle. For sale by all Druggists, or Address **DR. B. J. KENDALL COMPANY, ENOSBURGH FALLS, VT.**

A FOWL TIP. 100 Egg Self-Regulating \$15. 150 Chick Brooder, \$5. Circulars free. Send 4c. for catalogue & treatise No. 36. **BUCKEYE INCUBATOR CO., Springfield, O.**

MAKE HENS LAY! You can have Eggs in the early fall and throughout the coldest weather in winter when the price is very high. Do you want the secret? Our new Poultry Book tells it all; you see it. We will send this Book and the Wayside Gleanings, a 16 page journal for young farmers, 3 months for 10 cents. Address **POULTRY, G. S. V., CLINTONVILLE, CT.**

Make Hens Lay By feeding green cut bone, the greatest egg producing food in the world. Better than medicine and cheaper than grain. **Mann's Bone Cutter** On Trial. Try it before you pay for it. Price, \$5.00 and upward. 161 Highest Awards rec'd. Catalog free if name this paper. **F. W. MANN CO., Milford, Mass.**

HERE AGAIN! SHOEMAKER'S POULTRY ALMANAC FOR 1896. Its a heavy, larger and better than ever, nearly 100 pages 8x10 on best book paper. Fully illustrated with finest engravings of special design. A veritable Encyclopedia of Chicken information. Sent postpaid for only 15 cents. Address, **C. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 56, Freeport, Ill., U. S. A.** P. S.—Incubators and Brooders. Hot water, pipe system, the best in the world, a fine 32 page Catalogue free.

NEW MAMMOTH POULTRY GUIDE FOR 1896 Finest Poultry Book ever published. Contains nearly 100 pages, all printed in colors, showing over 150 new illustrations, gives new plans for most convenient poultry houses, sure remedies and recipes for all diseases, and how to make poultry and gardening pay. Sent post paid for 15 Cents. **John Bauscher, Jr., box 141 Freeport, Ill.**

HATCH CHICKENS BY STEAM—With the MODEL Excelsior Incubator. Simple, Perfect, Self-Regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher. Lowest priced first-class Hatcher made. **GEO. H. STAHL, 114 to 122 S. 8th St., Quincy, Ill.**

THE IMPROVED VICTOR INCUBATOR Hatches Chickens by Steam. Absolutely self-regulating. The simplest, most reliable, and cheapest first-class Hatcher in the market. Circulars free. **GEO. ERTTEL & CO., Quincy, Ill.**

NEW CATALOGUE FOR 1896. Profusely illustrated. The finest and best Poultry Book ever published. Illustrates and describes all the leading varieties of Poultry. Gives prices of Poultry and Eggs. Plans for building Poultry Houses and Remedies for diseases. If you raise Poultry, how can you afford to be without it. Sent post paid for 15 cents. Address, **THE J. W. MILLER CO., Box No. 162, FREEPORT, ILL.**

INCUBATORS Our 160 page, finely illustrated Combined Poultry Guide and Catalogue will tell you what you wish to know about **PROFITS IN POULTRY** We manufacture a complete line of Incubators, Brooders and Poultry Appliances. Guide and Catalogue 10c. (stamps or silver) **Worth one Dollar.** Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., Quincy, Ills.

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Our Fireside.

DRESSED FOR MEETIN'.

See my pretty ruffled dress!
See my teenty locket!
'Spect's I's most a lady now
'Cause I's got a pocket.
See my pretty hankerfist!
Sunday day I has it—
I can blow my nose in church
Most like papa does it!

These down here are my new shoes
That I walk my feet in—
Course it wouldn't do to wear
Copper-toes to meetin'.
Papa's hitchin' Jack and Gray—
And they keep a prancin'.
Horses don't wear Sunday clothes—
They don't know how they're dancin'!

Grandmother used to go with us,
Now she's gone to heaven,
'Spect she's at the angel church
Up where God is living.
See my hair, all made in curls,
That I look so sweet in—
Don't you want a nice, clean kiss
'Fore we go to meetin'?

—From an Old Scrap-book.

ISLAND ANNIE.

BY MRS. KATE TANNATT WOODS.

CHAPTER IX.

He gave his hours to the world again,
His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.

A VIGIL.

ANNIE sat alone at her window, listening to the sound of the water on the beach across the rocky hillside, and watching the moonlight as it changed, by reason of passing clouds, all the landscape. She could not sleep. It was a relief to sit and think alone, and her thoughts were varied. Some impulse moved her to write down, as she had frequently done on other occasions, the words of Father Conway. She placed a small book which he had given her on the window-sill and wrote not only his advice to herself, but Johanna, also.

"I wonder if he is in bed," she said, "or if he is poring over some of his books. Jan is sure to sleep sound, quite as sound as one of the boys who begged so hard for the honor of staying with him. I will look for his light and then go to bed. She crossed through the sitting-room next to her own and looked toward the cottage; the light was still burning, and after a time she saw it move about as if he were going from room to room. Jan slept in the room above. Again she saw the light moving, and then the door of the cottage opened, and Father Conway stood in it, looking about him. She saw him press his hand to his head and lean upon the side of the door, as if weary or in pain. "He finds the cottage too close for him; he is not well, and I will go to him."

She returned to her room, put on the shoes she had so recently removed, threw a shawl over her head, and flew like a deer across the rocks. He had gone in now, she saw, but not until he had clasped one hand upon his side. Never had the island seemed so large, never had the distance been so great as now. She stumbled twice, and fell, hurting her knees on the sharp stones, but she pressed on. The cottage door was half open, and she saw Father Conway sitting in his arm-chair holding the cross to his lips. Large drops of moisture stood on his brow, his eyes were drawn with pain, and breathing was difficult. Annie flew to the little shelf where the drops were kept, which the doctor bade them give him at once. She prepared them, and he drank them, looking the thanks he did not speak.

"Let me send Jan for a doctor," she said. "There is no need; I am better now."

Annie had her way in one respect; she called Jan and had him build a fire. She bathed the cold hands, rubbed the chilled feet, and was rewarded by seeing her patient growing more comfortable.

"What made you come?" he half whispered. "I felt that you needed me. See, I have not been in bed. You are really better—much better?" she asked.

"Oh, yes, only tired." Annie brought pillows and placed them under his head. Jan knelt and rubbed the feet in his own clumsy fashion.

"Thank you for all," he said; "you see, there was no need of a doctor, I am so much better. God bless you for coming, my child; I think I can sleep awhile if you are near."

She drew a chair near his and rested his head upon her shoulder. In a few moments he was sleeping, and Jan, at a signal from Annie, wrapped the blankets closer about him and sat down to watch. Annie never knew how long she sat there; she almost held her breath for fear she might disturb him. She had seen his lips moving in prayer, she had caught the words "peace" and "rest," and then he had fallen asleep.

Jan came to her at last and whispered:

"You'll be cramped, Miss Annie, sitting in the one way so long; you had better let me hold him now."

"No, no," she said; and as she spoke, the head sunk lower and lower upon her shoulder, and they saw that the day of eternal light had followed the night of pain.

For a few moments the girl's grief mastered her, and then turning to Jan she said, "Call them, tell them to come. He was the friend of all humanity."

While Jan went on his sad errand to the farm-house, Annie was alone with the dead; but she bathed his cold brow as if he could know, she brushed the locks of soft, gray hair as he had worn them in life, and laid the hands, so often used to bless, reverently upon their covering.

"Oh, father," she said, "best and kindest of friends, watch over me in paradise as you have watched over me here! Dear, dear friend, how can I live without you?"

Her father, always alert, was the first to reach her, and the elders of the family came, all weeping, all shocked, because the grim messenger had come while they slept.

"Tell them to be quiet, father," said Annie, as Mike put his arm about her. "He loved quiet, and his last words were 'rest' and 'peace.'"

"Be still, Meg," said Mike to his sister, who was making loud cries in the doorway. "Be still, and help us to place him on his couch while Jan goes to the shore. This is bad news for the whole state as well as ourselves."

"It is glorious news for him, father," said Annie.

Mike turned and looked at his girl. She was pale and hollow-eyed; she had not slept or eaten since the day previous, and the sun was now rising.

"Annie, child, drink a sup of tea or some-

you saw him, and I'd rather a man like that would come aboard my ship than any sneak-in', cantin' critter that thinks you are goin' to the bad place if you happen to rip out a cuss-word when things go wrong."

"It will be tough on Island Annie, as they call her, Mike Little's pretty daughter. She sets her heart by him, and he's been sending her to school and having her voice trained."

"Yes, it will break the girl all up. She's been a great comfort to the old man, I reckon; but young folks outlive trouble; it's only the old ones that can't shake it off."

So the small world talked of the good priest's death.

Annie was calm and collected and helpful. She gave directions to the men who came to prepare for the removal to the city; she cared for all the papers and manuscript left in the cottage, and was found later in the day comforting the little children as they wept, while her own eyes were hot and feverish.

Dr. Cameron looked at her in astonishment when they told him she had not rested all night or day. He arrived just at twilight, coming at once over the road to the farms in a private carriage, and thence across in a fisherman's boat. He learned the particulars from Jan and Annie, and comforted them by saying nothing more could have availed had he or any physician been present. He was rejoiced to know that the end was so much less painful than he had feared, and as he watched Annie he longed for the presence of the more demonstrative Alecia, who might be able to break up the strange, unnatural calmness of her friend.

There was something so sacred in her grief, so deep, that the young doctor felt himself unable to cope with it and at a loss for words. He was powerless to help her, and it hurt him that it should be so.

are rested and stronger we will talk of other things. He has given to me a special charge to look after your health and to caution you concerning overwork, and this I cannot do unless you will permit me to counsel you. If you object, pray tell me so with the utmost frankness."

"I could never object to anything he wished. His dear guidance has been too precious for that; but, indeed, Dr. Cameron, I am a very strong girl."

"Will you prove it by taking a long walk about the island with me before you attempt to sleep?"

"Gladly," she said, with an eagerness which surprised him; "keeping still seems almost impossible now."

Worn with watching and anxiety, Annie had told herself that sleep would be impossible, but long before midnight she was resting like a tired child and dreaming of music in some grand palace over the sea. Dr. Cameron understood her case.

CHAPTER X.

The noblest minds press onward,
Channel far of good to trace;
And the largest hearts bend downward,
Circling all the human race.

—Mrs. Hale.

It was now ten days since the funeral of Father Conway. He was buried in the city he had labored in for years, and the procession of mourners included all classes of humanity. Officials of the state and beggars stood side by side at his grave; people of every creed spoke of him with loving tenderness; the aged and little children wept together, and clergymen of all denominations bowed their heads in prayer. Even those who have scoffed, or doubted, or detracted while he lived, knew now that a noble man had been taken from earth.

Annie rode with her father and Alecia, with the good priest's brother looking constantly at her pale face from the opposite seat in the carriage. Amid the many trying experiences of life, nothing is more difficult than enduring the comments of others about some friend, dear to your heart, while you are on the way to place the precious form forever out of sight. Fortunate are you if you are not compelled to listen to strange questions, and gossip about the last illness, about the possible estate, the will, the heirs and the habits of deceased. Annie did not escape. Alecia, who had suddenly returned in response to a telegram, had exhausted her grief after a few hours of wild weeping, and was now anxious to hear from Annie all the items of her generous uncle's last illness.

The brothers had ever been totally unlike in tastes and habits, and therefore Alecia's uncle was not adverse to hearing all that might be said. He even asked a question now and then which made Annie shiver, but each answer came slowly and painfully from her lips. She was grateful in the after days for her ignorance of her kind friend's private affairs, especially when she learned of the priest's legacy to her, and his wishes as expressed in his will. Mr. Hinsdale and Mr. Bruce, a well-known lawyer, and Dr. Cameron were his executors. When the last rites were over, Annie and her father returned to Mrs. Hinsdale's; the other members of the family returned at once to the island.

"I would like to get back myself," said Mike, "but the lawyer said that I must bide a bit to hear of some business matters; and to tell you the plain truth, ma'am, I don't quite like the looks of my girl. She has been worried a deal of late, and it ain't quite natural for a girl of her age to keep so quiet. She was holding my hand in the carriage, and when they plagued her with their questions, I could feel her hand tremble in mine. She wouldn't give way, ma'am, for fear of grieving us all, but I would take it most kind if you would look close after my Annie for a few days."

Indeed I will, Mr. Little; she has been under a terrible strain with all this, but she shall have a room next my own and be very quiet. I can read the poor girl's heart as if she were my own. She must not go to the island now, but take up her studies here as soon as she is rested. It seems hard to keep her from you, but it is the best possible thing for Annie."

"I know it, ma'am, no one knows it better, and I'm not the man to keep one of my own down because I've never had a full, fair chance myself. There's many a time when I'm knocking about in my boat that I've thought of her, and if you'll excuse it, lady, I do think sometimes that the children that God gives us make up in a way for what we have always been hungering for and missing. It's not becoming in an humble fisherman like me to boast, but the Littles come of good stock, ma'am, and it's always a misfortune to be a younger son, as you know, in the old country, and this girl of mine seems to have all the things in her nature which I like best, and so she has a hold on my heart that none of the others can have. May God forgive me, but each one is dear to me, only she and I understand each other without words, and I take it when you have that power between two souls, that it's beyond man to explain."

"Right, Mr. Little, quite right," said Mrs. Hinsdale, holding out her hand, "and I re-



SITTING IN HIS ARM-CHAIR HOLDING THE CROSS TO HIS LIPS.

thing," he said; "it would be a harder thing than this for me, if aught came to you, lass."

He went into the little kitchen where Jan had a hot fire burning, and in a few moments he stood before her with a cup of steaming tea.

"Drink, my lass," he said, "drink every drop; they'll be coming from the town soon, and there's no head but yours could plan to his liking, so keep up, my girl."

"I will keep up, father, never fear. We must send word to Alecia and other friends."

"Yes. We must get Cameron back, too. It was only yesterday that the father said, 'I love that young man; if I had a son I should want him to be like our young doctor.'"

The day had far advanced before any help came from the shore, but the sad tidings had gone out far and wide. When Trask brought the stage up to the little grocery where he dropped the mail, he heard it from a group of men who were too proud to weep, but gravely told over and over the good things that the dead man had thought of and accomplished for others.

"I'm as stiff a Protestant as most," said Deacon Sharp to some of his friends, "but I do say that Father Conway was a man, a clean, good, honest man, Catholic or no Catholic; if his church would give us a few more like him, the world would be better."

"There's plenty of churches might be proud of him," said Trask. "He's been up and down on this coast with me for twenty years, and if ever there was a man who could help the poor, and keep crazy devils from drinking and misery, it was him. I don't care a pin's head what name you call a man by as to religion, it's what he lives that touches me, and Father Conway lived like a big, noble-hearted Christian, creed or no creed."

"That's right, Trask," said an old sailor, "it was the right up and down, square in and out manhood that set you to thinkin' whenever

"Will you not try to sleep?" he said, as she finished tacking some screens at the cottage windows to darken the room where their friend lay, before the morning sun should steal in.

"I am not tired," she said.

"Then please walk to the shore with me."

"I would like to think of our dear friend away from those who loved him, also, but are less quiet with their grief," said Annie, wearily.

She went with him to the very spot where they had recently stood with their friend. She remembered afterward how carefully he had arranged a thick shawl about her; and how hard he tried to cheer her at the time she was too numb with sorrow to think or feel.

"Miss Annie," said the young man, after they had watched the ocean for some time in perfect silence.

"Yes, doctor, I am listening."

She roused herself, fearing he had been speaking to her and she had not listened.

"Our dear friend left a letter written to me which he asked me not to open until his death. I opened it to-day when the word came to me, and all the way here I have been thinking how I could best comply with his request. I shall be obliged to ask your assistance."

"I would do anything to please him, if I only knew how. This is the deepest bitterness of parting, not to know in all respects what the dear ones might wish."

"It is my experience thus far that the wishes of our deceased friends are seldom carried out. In this case, without knowing what the good man has requested of others, I feel that every wish of his is a sacred duty, a solemn obligation, and, I must add, a sad pleasure bringing us a little nearer to him."

"Yes, oh, yes, we feel exactly alike about it. Tell me what he wished, please."

"This much I may tell you now; when you

spect and honor you for the brave struggle you are making to educate your little flock. Annie has your spirit and her mother's gentle manners, and she is very dear to us: as to our dear Father Conway, she was the nearest to a beloved daughter that he could ever know. He has told me all his plans for her. Here comes my husband to talk with you, and now I will run up to Annie while Alecia is occupied with her uncle."

Mrs. Hinsdale rapped softly at the door of a room next her own, where she had ordered Annie's belongings to be taken. She felt instinctively that the two girls should now have separate apartments. There was no response, and she quietly opened the door. Annie was lying prostrate on the bed; she had not removed either hat or gloves, and her white face was buried in the pillow on which it rested.

"Annie, my dear child," said Mrs. Hinsdale, "I am going to drink a glass of warm milk, and the maid is to bring one for you. Let me remove your hat, dear, and then we will have a few moments of quiet before we dress for dinner."

Annie rose mechanically and looked at her kind friend.

"I thank you so much," she said, in a weary tone.

The milk soon came, and Mrs. Hinsdale saw with gladness that the color began to creep into the girl's cheeks while she drank it. Mrs. Hinsdale took the glass from the girl and sat beside her on the bed, drawing her head down upon her shoulder.

"There, little girl, that is your place now, as it has been for years. I have so longed to get at you ever since the word came, and we have traveled night and day. You should have seen my dear old husband; why, child, he almost swore at the trains for going slow. Think of that, my orderly, scholarly husband in a nervous fret because that poor girl would need us so."

Annie did not speak. Mrs. Hinsdale went on:

"It always takes a woman to know just how another woman suffers. Even the best and dearest of men cannot quite understand it, but, oh, my! Jack has been so precious through all this, and the burden of his song has been 'our Annie.' He knew better than most how Father Conway felt and what he wished for you, and I think he gave him some special charge about you. We will find out later, but just now, dearest, I have come to tell you that your father is waiting to see his little girl with a smile on her face once more, and I want, also, to consult you about a basket of things for the children which we must send down by him, for he agrees with me that you must not return at present."

There was a fond, loving pressure of the hand Mrs. Hinsdale held in hers, but no words came.

"Now, dear, my heart prompts me to leave you here in quiet, but my head tells me that duty calls you down-stairs, and after dinner comes our legal friend to give us the solemn, precious wishes of one we all loved expressed in due form. It will be an ordeal, Annie, dear, a hard one for you just now, but the heirs, the few relatives he had must leave, and we will accept the situation. Annie, daughter, can you go through with it all for his sake?"

"Yes, anything, everything," said the girl, and a tear fell down on the woman's hand, the first the girl had shed.

Mrs. Hinsdale held her in her arms and wept with her; not loudly, but quietly, as strong, true women weep; for boisterous grief exhausts itself, and deep sorrow, like true love, is shy. They sat together in silence, and read each others' hearts by the secret chart of a common sorrow.

No one would have dreamed of this scene when Annie descended half an hour later. Mrs. Hinsdale was talking with the good priest's brother; Alecia was chattering with Mr. Little about the island and all that had happened in her absence; Dr. Cameron was engaged in an earnest conversation with Mr. Hinsdale, and the lawyer and confidential friend of Father Conway was looking over some letters which had just been handed him. When Annie entered, Dr. Cameron and her host both stepped forward to greet her, but she quietly went to her father, after a pleasant, graceful greeting to all, and stood there with her hand on his arm. It was a proud day for honest Mike Little when his own dear girl came first to him.

"All the learning in the world will never spoil my Annie, you see, sir," he said, as Mr. Hinsdale came up and greeted her.

"Learning only makes us know how much we owe to all humanity, sir," said Mr. Hinsdale, "and it would be a poor education which could ever make a child neglectful or unkind to a parent, especially to a brave man like you, Mr. Little."

After the dinner hour was over the will was read. It was curious to note the conduct of the two girls while the lawyer announced the legacies and last wishes of the priest. Alecia was eager, curious and surprised; but Annie trembled visibly and grew hot and cold by turns. To her the one supreme thought was, how could his wishes be carried out in every respect; to Alecia, what she would do with the thousand dollars left her. There was a liberal sum from estates in Ireland to his beloved parish, small remembrances to relatives and friends, and various charitable organizations, and then a liberal portion to Annie, daughter of Michael Little, of Peace

island, who by the terms of the will must go abroad with her mother-friend, Mrs. Hinsdale, or some one selected by the executors, and remain there for two years to complete her studies, especially the cultivation of her voice; after that time the income from the sum should be paid her during her life, provided that the said Annie on each Easter morning as long as health and strength would permit, should sing in some church of her communion the anthem which had so often cheered his heart, "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth."

This alone impressed the girl. She had never felt the need of money since her studies began; her tastes were simple, and her innocent mind dwelt less upon the fortune which was now or would soon be her own than upon the request that all through the coming years there would be one yearly service sacred to her beloved friend and benefactor. She was thinking of this when the brother of the priest came up to her and congratulated her. Something in his voice caused her to look up, and her instinct told her that he was not pleased. It was a relief to hear the lawyer say:

"Miss Little, as one of my friend's executors, I must speak from my heart when I tell you that the provisions of this will please me immensely. The only thing to regret is that you must leave your native land for a time."

"Yes, Annie," said Mr. Hinsdale, "that means good-by to America for a time, but your father will never mind that when he knows how much you will gain."

"I'm not a man to go against the word or wishes of my best friend," said honest Mike; "it's enough for me that she's my girl on land or sea, eh, lassie?"

For answer Annie kissed him, and one who stood apart watching her, said softly to himself, "She has stood my test."

Dr. Cameron, when he approached her, did not mention the legacy, but merely said as he took her hand:

"As your medical adviser until you choose to select another, permit me to request that you retire early to-night and rise late to-morrow. I will call about eleven, if you will allow me."

"Certainly," said Annie, "and then you will tell me all that—that he wished;" she could not trust herself to speak the cherished name. Even then she was thinking of a new arrangement of the precious anthem which she had spoken to her friend about the day before he went home to the eternal city.

Dr. Cameron and the brother of the priest went down the steps together.

"I think," said the man, "that Hugh over-estimated that girl; she strikes me as cold and unfeeling."

A queer light flashed into the doctor's eyes as he replied briefly:

"She is neither, sir, as your brother well knew."

In her own room with Mrs. Hinsdale, Annie was saying:

"The one comfort is that I can still be doing something he wished, something for him, and one regret is that I must leave poor mother and father to bear their burdens alone."

"It is your father's wish, child," said Mrs. Hinsdale, and then she told the daughter of the father's brave words. God had indeed given Mike Little a child who would make up for all he had hungered for and missed.

[To be continued.]

CONCERNING WOMEN.

The Princess of Wales has given a large order to the lace-school at Asolo, started by Mr. Barrett Browning in memory of his father. It will be remembered that Mr. Browning's poem, "Pippa passes," is set in Asolo. At the time that it was written, the beautiful city at the foot of the Apennines was a prosperous silk-weaving center. The industry was destroyed when the great factories were established in the neighborhood, and the place fell into great poverty. Mr. Barrett Browning had hoped to revive the manufacture, and to set once more the girls of Asolo weaving at their cottage doors. It was found to be a hopeless enterprise. He then started the lace-school under an experienced lace-maker. He furnished designs, and copied some of the oldest and finest patterns. Gradually the girls and women of the hamlet came to be taught, and the school is full. Some of the lace made is beautiful.

Mme. Tel Sono, a Japanese lawyer, is said to be the only feminine member of the bar in the land of the mikado. She was educated in England. In addition to actively following the duties of her profession, she takes a practical interest in the welfare of her sex, and has founded a training-college for women.

Jenny Lind's granddaughter has discovered a splendid soprano voice. She has been placed for study under Mme. Marchesi, in Paris, and two or three years hence she may make her debut on the operatic stage.

The Duchess of Cleveland, the mother of Lord Rosebery, is writing an account of the life of Lady Hester Stanhope, which cannot fail to be interesting at the present moment. Most of the accounts of this wonderfully "new woman," who lived in the age before new women were born or thought of, are vastly exciting; but the coming history, taken as it will be from hitherto unpublished papers in possession of the family, may throw a more pleasing halo around the enterprising lady who, dressed as a man and a Turk, startled the East with her daring exploits.

FOR CITY CHILDREN.

In many of the large cities of Germany and France, sand gardens are provided for the children of the poor, who otherwise would be debarred from the enjoyment of healthful pleasure. Eight years ago a similar scheme was advocated for adoption in Chicago, but failed for lack of backers. Now the New York papers have taken up the cause, and seem determined to carry it through. The plan is as follows:

Secure the use, by purchase or otherwise, of a large vacant lot in the desired neighborhood. Excavating a space of twenty-five by fifty feet to a depth of two feet, drain it thoroughly, then cover with six inches of clean, fine sand. Put in three or four coils of pipe and connect with a furnace or steam-boiler. Now place eighteen inches more of clean, well-dried sand, which will bring the sand a little above the level of the ground. Over all erect a sloping roof, partly of glass, made in sections and resting on suitable pillars, so that it may be removed at little cost in the event of a change of location. The ends and sides will be so arranged that they can easily be filled in with boards during the winter months.

In addition, also, to this plan, an artificial hill of smooth boards may be erected in the middle of the sand floor. The introduction of wooden horses would afford an additional source of amusement. The sand garden can easily be kept clean, while the cost of construction and maintenance is very small. In summer the sides and ends may be open; in winter they can be boarded up, and the sand heated by steam or hot water.

Thus can be formed the softest and most healthful spot children could possibly desire. They will be out of the burning sun in summer and out of the frosts of winter, and have a playground as soft and yielding as a feather-bed in which to loll or romp at their own sweet will.

GREAT REDUCTION IN TIME TO CALIFORNIA.

Once more the North-Western Line has reduced the time of its trans-continental trains, and the journey from Chicago to California via this popular route is now made in the marvelously short time of three days. Palace Drawing-room Sleeping cars leave Chicago daily, and run through to San Francisco and Los Angeles without change, and all meals en route are served in Dining cars. Daily Tourist Sleeping car service is also maintained by this line between Chicago and San Francisco and Los Angeles, completely equipped berths in upholstered Tourist Sleepers being furnished at a cost of only \$6.00 each from Chicago to the Pacific Coast. Through trains leave Chicago for California at 6:00 P. M. and 10:45 P. M. daily, after arrival of trains of connecting lines from the East and South.

For detailed information concerning rates, routes, etc., apply to ticket agents of connecting lines, or address W. B. Kniskern, G. P. and T. A., Chicago.

A RABBIT COUNTRY.

The name of Spain was bestowed by the Phœnicians from the word "Span," signifying a rabbit—an allusion to the great numbers of this animal on the Spanish plains. The country was formerly called Iberia, from the tribe of Iber, who took their name from the river Ibro or Ebro.

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Here is a remarkable scheme, being the entire furniture of a bedroom, so built that it can be folded into one small package weighing 450 pounds. It can be set up by any one in a few minutes. It contains no loose screws or intricate parts which would puzzle one to arrange.

This suite consists of a 3 foot 9 inch wardrobe, 3 foot 6 inch dressing-chest, 3 foot 4 inch washstand, two cane-seat chairs, 2 foot 9 inch ottoman bedstead on casters, bedding complete, chamber service, and mosquito-curtains if required. The whole of this extraordinary suite, forming the entire furniture of a comfortable bedroom, folds into itself, forming one package 6 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, by 2 feet 1 inch; weight about 450 pounds. No packing-case is required.

The scheme is the work of an English manufacturer, and for that large class of people who are on the constant move, like gypsies, summer tourists or flat-dwellers, the idea is food for reflection.—Upholsterer.

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INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL ON THE LONGEVITY OF MAN.

Dr. Crothers, of Hartford, who has had long experience in the management of institutions for the inebriate and insane, says that "inebriety is the active cause of from 15 to 50 per cent of all insanity; from 30 to 80 per cent of all idiocy; from 60 to 90 per cent of all pauperism, and from 50 to 85 per cent of all crime," then asks the question, "Who can estimate the relief of the taxpayers by the removal of the perils to both property and life from drunkenness?"

Dr. Day, of Boston, in his late annual report of the Washington Home for the Treatment of Inebriates, says: "On the individual the effect of vicious alcoholic indulgence is disease of the body; sooner or later it must succumb. Disease of the mind is not far off; it may be delirium or insanity."

Dr. Formad found in the dead-house autopsies of the Philadelphia hospital, that in 250 chronic alcoholists nearly 90 per cent had fatty degeneration of the liver, 60 per cent had congestion or a dropsical state of the brain; the same number an inflamed or degenerated stomach, while not quite one per cent had normal kidneys.

To be convinced of the cause of so much pauperism in the country, we have only to examine the statistics of the liquor traffic in the United States. "According to the report of Internal Revenue Commissioner Mills, for the year 1892, the patrons of the saloons paid \$609,000,000 for whisky and \$617,258,460 for beer, a total of \$1,226,258,460, the interest of which for one minute at six per cent per annum is \$8,515.68." This would more than pay off the national debt, and would feed and clothe all the poor of the country.

When we look abroad over the world and take a bird's-eye view of the evil effects of intemperance in its various aspects, its production of disease and death, the destruction of happiness and home, pauperism and crimes innumerable, with general demoralization, we are astonished that any thinking man, much less a physician, should come to the conclusion that drinking men and drunkards enjoy greater longevity than total abstainers. —*The Medical Progress.*

SCIENTIFIC ENTHUSIASTS.

It is a common error to think of science as opposed to all the poetry of life and scientists as the most cold and matter-of-fact men. In reality the true scientist is almost always a poet at heart, and the greater he is the more certain is he to be a pure enthusiast and of a deeply reverent spirit. Kepler, exclaiming in the moment of his great discovery, "O God, I think thy thoughts after thee!" is a type of this.

Professor Farrar, who occupied the chair of natural philosophy at Harvard University two thirds of a century ago, was a man possessed of this enthusiasm for his work, and was beloved by his pupils, whom he inspired with something of his own spirit.

One day the class entered the lecture-room and found the professor walking backward and forward with kindled eye and working face, holding a ball in his hand. Presently he stopped and confronted the class and exclaimed, suiting the action to the word:

"I toss this ball into the air; the earth rises up to meet it, and the stars how down to do it reverence!"

Probably no member of the class who heard these words ever forgot their absolutely accurate lesson—that action and reaction are equal; that the apple which falls to the earth at the same time draws the earth to itself in the exact ratio of their relative weight, and disturbs even the course of the planets and stars. Still less could they forget the grandeur and unity so vividly expressed in that brief imagery. —*Youth's Companion.*

JAPAN HAS NO ANIMALS.

Japan is a land without the domestic animals. It is this lack which strikes the stranger so forcibly in looking upon Japanese landscapes. There are no cows—the Japanese neither drinks milk nor eats meat. There are but few horses, and these are imported mainly for the use of foreigners. The freight-carts in city streets are pulled and pushed by coolies, and the pleasure-carriages are drawn by men. There are but few dogs, and these are neither used as watch-dogs, beasts of burden nor in hunting, except by foreigners.

There are no sheep in Japan, and wool is not used in clothing, silk and cotton being the staples. There are no pigs; pork is an unknown article of diet, and lard is not used in cooking. There are no goats or mules or donkeys. Wild animals there are, however, and in particular bears of enormous size. One of these Mr. Finck saw, stuffed, in a museum, he describes as "big as an ox." Beside another stuffed museum bear is preserved in alcohol the mangled body of a child the bear had eaten before being killed. —*New York Recorder.*

DISCOVERED BONES.

It is certain that the elephant, the rhinoceros, the bear, the hyena and other wild animals were at one time common in England. The bones of these animals have been found in Kent's cavern, about a mile from Torquay. —*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.*

WHY WE LIKE DOGS.

And why do people keep such lots of dogs themselves, and go in such numbers to see other people's dogs? queries *Popular Science News*, and then proceeds to answer. Because the dog is at once the sincerest flatterer and the most successful cheerer that the human race ever had. A good dog always gives us the feeling that we men and women are a sort of god. No other animal does anything of the kind. The cat treats us as an inferior, and the horse will treat us as a dear friend, not a divinity. The dog, moreover, imparts something of his peculiar gaiety to us in a way that is irresistible. He mingles his suggestion of gaiety with his flattery; for he not only leaves his dinner untasted to walk with us, but the mere fact that we are apparently giving ourselves the pleasure of a walk raises him into such a delirium of delight that the sight of it puts all our dumps and blues to such reproach that we shake them off in very shame. And when we don't walk, but sit moodily at home, the dog curls up lovingly at our feet, and looks up now and then into our eyes, and "glides into our darker musings with a mild and healing sympathy." Yes; there is solid reason for the fondness of men for dogs, and it will never come to an end until either men or dogs become very different beings from what they are now.

SOUTHERN FARM LANDS.

Is not an acre of land in the South that will produce in a year more revenue than an acre in Iowa, Ohio and New York worth intrinsically as much? And yet, while land in the last-named and other northern states is held at \$30 to \$100 an acre, land in the South, capable of yielding more money in a year, can be had for from \$2 to \$10 an acre. The price is low because there are millions of acres more than the present population can cultivate. As the population increases through immigration, prices will rise. Prices are now much higher than formerly in some localities. Can the northern farmer afford to go on cultivating high-priced land that will never increase in value, when for a tenth to a fourth of the value of his farm he could get another in the South on which he could make more money and live in more comfort, and which would be getting more valuable every year? —*Southern States Magazine.*

A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD.

The most famous and most puzzling of all gold-mines is the Mount Morgan. It appears, from one of the Sydney papers, that it contributes more precious metal to the world's treasure than any other patch of the earth's surface of the same extent. Mount Morgan is supposed to be the product of a thermal spring, and is simply a mountain of gold, but of gold that has already been treated by nature. In some far-off age the hill has been a huge natural crucible, and all the gold it contains has been already mined, chemically dissolved and precipitated by nature herself. No speck of gold larger than a pin's point has ever been discovered in the mount. The precious metal exists in a sort of golden flour, dissolved through ironstone. —*Westminster Gazette.*

SPECIAL LETTER

OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL READERS OF THIS PAPER.

TO THE EDITOR OF FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Dear Sir:—We have had inquiries from many of the readers of your paper as to the merit of electric belts, and which one of several advertised is the best. The following letter from an experienced and reliable party, whose name is well known to your readers, will answer these questions fully and with satisfaction to all.

Respectfully, E. M. M.

EXPERT AND OFFICIAL TESTIMONY AS TO THE MERIT AND VALUE OF THE MILES' PERFECTED ELECTRIC BELT AND APPLIANCES.

153 CENTER STREET,
CHICAGO, Oct. 10th, 1895.

UNITED STATES ELECTRIC BELT CO., 62 HARTFORD BUILDING, CHICAGO, ILL.

Gentlemen:—For nearly nine years I have been actively engaged in the manufacture and sale of electric belts and appliances. During this time I have seen and personally examined everything of this nature which has been offered for sale in this country, as well as some electric belts from foreign countries.

Since April last I have had an opportunity to look into and examine the Miles' Perfected Electric Belt and its appliances which you are making, and I do not hesitate to say that it is the best electric belt I have ever seen. It certainly has all the advantages you claim for it, without having the objections of other belts, of which there are many. I find that the batteries generate a strong electric current which by your system of "cut-outs" is easily regulated and perfectly controlled by the wearer.

The batteries are easily placed in the pockets on the belt, and are much lighter and at the same time they are more durable than any others. The electrodes and connecting cords permit of a proper distribution and application of the electric current whenever and wherever desired; in fact, the entire belt is simply perfection in every part. The Miles' Perfected Electric Belt certainly stands in the lead of everything of the kind ever produced. The use of your electric belt will surely be of inestimable benefit to suffering humanity, and when their value is generally known, as I know it, they will have a place in every home. You may use this letter as you think best in the interest and for the relief of suffering humanity.

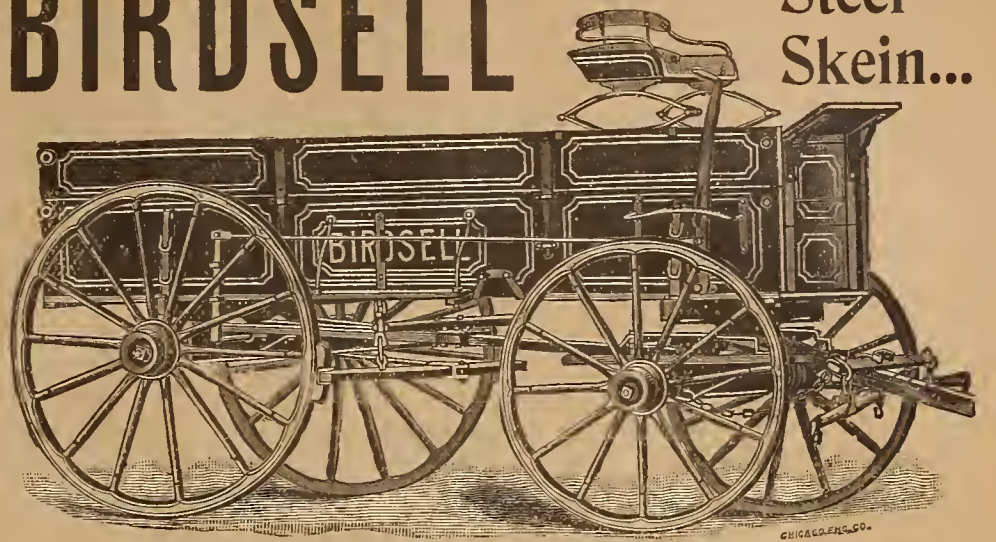
Yours truly, S. M. OWEN,

Late Treasurer and Manager of the Manufacturing department of the Owen Electric Belt and Appliance Co.

A catalogue containing full information about these belts can be had free by addressing UNITED STATES ELECTRIC BELT CO., 62 Hartford Building, cor. Madison and Dearborn Sts., Chicago, Ill.

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FARM WAGON.

Matchless for strength, proportion, finish and lightness of draft. Our steel truss, cut under rub irons and "horses' friend" coil spring doubletree, furnished with every wagon without extra charge. Farmers should not fail to investigate the superior qualities of this wagon. Catalogue sent free. Address

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Farm Renters

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if they move to Nebraska before the price of land climbs out of reach. But they must move soon. Values are going up. Every year of delay adds one, two, three, four or five dollars to the price of every desirable acre in the State.

Write for our Nebraska book—'95 issue and special information for people who are in earnest.

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FREE STAMPING OUTFIT.

kind of embroidery, conventional, floral, Grecian and motto designs for ties, dollies, splashes, tray cloths, etc. Choice alphabet for ornamental marking, one cake Eureka Compound, and instructions for stamping without paint, powder, or trouble. Everything new and desirable over \$2 in value as sold at stores, and all sent FREE to every one who sends 12c. for 3 months trial subscription to our new 64-col. illustrated magazine, containing stories and the brightest household and fancy-work departments. Address, POPULAR MONTHLY, 116 Federal St., BOSTON, MASS.

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New and beautiful, for every kind of embroidery, conventional, floral, Grecian and motto designs for ties, dollies, splashes, tray cloths, etc. Choice alphabet for ornamental marking, one cake Eureka Compound, and instructions for stamping without paint, powder, or trouble. Everything new and desirable over \$2 in value as sold at stores, and all sent FREE to every one who sends 12c. for 3 months trial subscription to our new 64-col. illustrated magazine, containing stories and the brightest household and fancy-work departments. Address, POPULAR MONTHLY, 116 Federal St., BOSTON, MASS.

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Catalogue, illustrated in colors, containing full descriptions of all our Pianos and Organs. REMEMBER, we are the only piano manufacturers selling exclusively to the general public direct, at factory cost—the only firm where you get the Real Exact Value for your money. There are no agents, dealers' or middlemen's profits added.

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To suit your circumstances. Pianos and Organs shipped on 30 days' trial in your own home under our special warrant for 25 years. No money required in advance. Safe delivery to purchaser guaranteed. TERMS:—No Satisfaction, No Pay.

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NOTE:—As an advertisement we will sell to the first purchaser in a place one of our finest PIANOS, specially fitted and finished for only \$160, or one of our latest PARLOR ORGANS for \$25. ALL EXTRAS for each instrument FREE.

Don't fail to write at once to
CORNISH & CO., Washington, New Jersey. Established 61 years.

SAVE MONEY!

Send for our new 1895 catalogue, illustrated in colors, containing full descriptions of all our Pianos and Organs. REMEMBER, we are the only piano manufacturers selling exclusively to the general public direct, at factory cost—the only firm where you get the Real Exact Value for your money. There are no agents, dealers' or middlemen's profits added.

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FLIES AS REPORTERS.

An American "scientist," I read, "is studying the language of house-flies, which can be distinctly heard by means of a microphone." If he succeeds in this he ought to make an excellent reporter for a society paper. A fly must see and hear a good deal of what is going on in the "inner life" of a domestic establishment, and a bluebottle, to judge by his huzzing, should be a great gossip. It will be interesting to learn whether being upside down—when traversing the ceiling, for example—makes any difference in their views of matters.

There is no reason why this investigation should stop at flies. Spiders, we are told on excellent authority, are in kings' palaces (which does not speak well, by the by, for the royal housemaids), and their information should therefore be well worth reporting. One would also like to hear what the spider has to say of the fly, the account of their relations having hitherto been very one-sided. —*James Payn, in Illustrated London News.*

HORRORS OF THE SLUMS.

Professor Huxley was interested in an especial London parish, and wrote of it thus: "Over and above the physical misery, the impression has never died out of my mind of the supernatural and entirely astonishing deadness and dullness of these poor people. Over that parish, Dante's inscription, 'Leave hope behind, all those who enter here,' might have been written. There was no amusement to diversify the dull round of life except the public-house; there was nothing to remind the people of anything in the whole universe

beyond their miserable toil, rewarded by slow starvation. In my experience of all kinds of savages all over the world, I found nothing worse, nothing more degraded, nothing more helpless, nothing so intolerably dull and miserable as the life I left behind me in the east end of London. Nothing would please me more than to contribute to the bettering of that state of things which, unless wise and benevolent men take it in hand, will tend to become worse and worse, and to create something worse than savagery—a great Serbonian bog, which, in the long run, will swallow up the surface crust of civilization."

HOW SHE SPELLED IT.

Everyone knows how to spell "hard water" with three letters, but probably some readers would be puzzled how to spell "yesterday" with six. A Cincinnati girl could tell them how, according to the *Enquirer*.

She does not yet go to school, but is taught by her mother at home. The other night her father was hearing her spell. One word after another was successfully disposed of, and then he said:

"Now, Annie, I am going to give you a hard one. If you spell it correctly I'll bring you some candy. How do you spell 'yesterday'?"

It was a hard one. Annie thought of the candy, and just then her eye caught the calendar hanging against the wall; then she answered, with a smile of triumph:

"F-r-i, yester, d-a-y, day, yesterday."

SOME people spend enough time grieved over spilt milk to buy another cow.

Our Household.

TO THE BACHELOR.

What's the matter with that chap,
That's baching?
Think he well deserves a slap,
While baching.
I'd teach him not to scratch his head
While in the act of making bread,
Or tell him he had better wed,
And quit baching.

Why don't you get some real nice girl,
While you're baching,
To help you make things hum and whirl,
While you're baching?
I rather expect she'd make you mose
If she'd find flour on your nose,
Or upon your unpatched clothes,
While you're baching.

Oh, yes, I've lost a rubber shoe,
Since you're baching;
'Spect that's in your pancake, too,
Now you're baching.
Wonder now what next you'll do,
Stir some shingles in your dough?
Wouldn't like that, say do you,
While you're baching?

Should I chance to come that way,
While you're baching,
Which I may do some fine day,
While you're baching,
I'll be sure and bring a cake,
'Twill be of my choicest make,
And of that we will partake,
While you're baching.

I'd like into your larder peep,
While you're baching,
And see what kind of stuff you eat,
While you're baching;
But perhaps I could not tell,
And it might be just as well,
So I bid you find a belle
And quit baching.

—M. L. M.

HOME TOPICS.

BATH-ROOM.—We who live in the country claim, and justly, too, to enjoy many advantages that our city friends lack; but one convenience found in nearly all city houses, and which in the country is conspicuous by its absence, is a bath-room. There is no reasonable excuse for this; it is only because we do not realize the convenience and comfort of a bath-room. It is really more important in the country than in the city. Farm work is much of it dirty work, and often men who have been working all day are so tired at night that they do not feel like any added exertion, and go to bed dirty, when, if they had a bath-room and tub, with hot and cold water handy, they would look upon a bath as a comfort and luxury instead of a task. A good bath rests one when they are tired, and the sleep after it is much more sound and refreshing.

True, everyone cannot have hot and cold water piped all over their house in the country, but put the bath-room adjoining the kitchen, and on the side next the well if you can; then a few feet of rubber pipe

already built, and there is no small room you can take for a bath-room, and you cannot build one at present, at least get a bath-tub and set it in one corner of the kitchen. You can put a cover on it, and it will make a very convenient table when not in use. On wash-day it can be used for a rinsing-tub. Stretch a line across the corner, on which a sliding curtain may be hung, and by drawing this curtain across you will have quite a convenient bath-room. Instead of the curtain, a screen can be made of a clothes-horse covered with unbleached muslin. I am sure, after you have enjoyed the bath-tub six months, you will wonder how you ever did without it, and will not be willing to part with it for any price.

WOMEN'S CLUBS.—Nearly every city or town of any considerable size has one or more women's clubs organized for various purposes. This winter, in a little suburban village of about one hundred inhabitants, ten or twelve women meet every Wednesday afternoon from two to four o'clock to read, and discuss what they read. It can hardly be called an organization, as it has no constitution or by-laws and no officers. The meetings are held at the houses of the different members, and on each occasion the hostess provides the entertainment, mental and physical. She selects the reading, which is usually from the *Review of Reviews* or *Public Opinion*, and appoints two ladies to read. The members bring their



BASKET CRIB.

work, fancy work, or sometimes even stockings to darn, and fingers are busy while they listen or talk. Then tea or cocoa with wafers or delicate slices of bread and butter are served, and all go home feeling that their minds are refreshed and they have gained new ideas.

Busy women who have their hands full of household affairs do not have time to belong to clubs that make many demands on their time, but they are just the ones who will receive unlimited benefit and pleasure from attending such weekly meetings as the ones above described. Such a club is admirably suited to women who live in country homes, and will do much to break the monotony of country life in the winter. MAIDA McL.

THE BABY'S LAYETTE.

Yes, that is what the French call it, and many expressions of the mother's love go into the preparation of the outfit for the expected little one. Daintiness now rules in all baby's belongings. Clothes loaded with embroidery and groups of tucks are entirely out of favor.

India silk and linen cambric are employed in many of the garments, and as they are good washers, they need not be called an extravagance.

Lovely shirts can be bought like our own underwear for the smallest babe. These are soft, and fit nicely.

Flannel of good width should be purchased for the skirts. The higher-priced flannels wear the best. Silk flannel is used for bands and shawls.

Lonsdale cambric is the material for slips to be used at night, and skirts. These should not be long, as such clothing is a burden to the child. One yard from the neck is long enough.

Little wrappers of outing-flannel are very

nice. These can be feather-stitched and made very neat.

For the dresses, use long cloth or Berkeley cambric at thirty cents a yard. For finer dresses, French cambric. Make everything very plain and simple, and use narrow laces or hemstitching for trimmings. With deep hems these are very artistic.

For diapers, use either the cotton diaper, antiseptic, or cheese-cloth, doubled. These must be furnished by the dozen, four or five being none too many to start with.

We give illustrations of two very simple dresses.

The long cloak is a marvel of elegance and comfort.

The little booties are easily knitted, using coarse needles, and much the same as a stocking. Beautiful ones can be bought for sixty-five cents a pair, so if you cannot knit, it is much cheaper to buy them than to bother learning how.

The little basket crib is on a foundation of a willow basket, the trimmings of swiss and lace making it a thing of beauty.

A very useful article is the hooded shawl. This is a square of flannel, with one corner drawn into a hood and lined with silk.

Many luxuries may be provided, but these are the necessities.

CHRISTIE IRVING.

WHEN EGGS ARE SCARCE.

Not every housekeeper can afford to bake fancy cakes when eggs range from twenty to forty cents a dozen, yet they do not like to be without some such dainties. For the benefit of such I give a few tested recipes that do not require eggs:

HARD-TIMES CAKE.

$\frac{3}{4}$ of a cupful of butter,
1 cupful of sugar,

1 cupful of molasses,
1 cupful of strong coffee,
4 cupfuls of flour,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of a nutmeg, grated,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of a teaspoonful of ground cloves,
1 teaspoonful of soda.

Dissolve the soda in the coffee, and to the above ingredients add any kind of dried fruit desired. If anything else than raisins or currants, it should be first soaked over night and chopped moderately fine. Use two cupfuls. Mix, line the pan with well-oiled paper, and bake slowly. It is best to place a tinfoil of water in the oven under it, to prevent it scorching. Keep the cake covered until it rises.

LAYER CAKE.

1 cupful of sugar,
Butter the size of an egg,
1 cupful of sour milk,
2 cupfuls of flour,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of a teaspoonful of soda,
1 teaspoonful (slightly heaping) of baking-powder,
2 tablespoonfuls of corn-starch,
1 teaspoonful of lemon.

Cream the butter and sugar, dissolve the soda in milk and add to the butter and sugar without stirring. Sift flour, corn-starch and baking-powder together; add a little at a time, beating thoroughly. Add the flavoring, and bake in three layers. Put tart jelly between, and one has a delicate jelly-cake. Substitute any kind of a filling for a variety.

CARAMEL FILLING.

$\frac{1}{2}$ of a cupful of cream,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cupful of butter,
2 cupfuls of brown sugar.

Set over the fire, and stir constantly while it boils, until the caramel will rope when the spoon is lifted. Remove from the fire, and beat hard while cooling. Spread while warm, or it will not go on smoothly. Enough to put between the layers and use instead of icing on top for a cake of three layers.

NUT CARAMEL FILLING.—Use the recipe just given, substituting white sugar for brown, if desired, and using milk instead of cream. When ready to remove from the fire, add a cupful of chopped nut meats, either hickory-nuts, walnuts, almonds or peanuts, and spread between the layers and on top.



BABY'S SLIP.

LEMON ICING.—Put two tablespoonfuls of sweet milk in a bowl, add six tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar and a few drops of lemon essence. Beat briskly, and spread.

TRANSPARENT ICING.—The juice of one lemon, strained to remove all pulp, and one tablespoonful of water. Add powdered sugar until thick enough to spread. Spread with a broad-bladed knife dipped in water.

HICKORY-NUT FILLING.—One heaping cupful of hickory-nut meats rolled fine with a rolling-pin, three fourths of a cupful of thick, sour cream sweetened until it has a pleasant taste. Add the rolled hickory-nuts, stir well, and spread between the layers of the cake.

GINGER COOKIES.

1 pint of lard,
1 pint of sorghum molasses,
1 cupful of brown sugar,
1 cupful of buttermilk,
2 teaspoonfuls of soda,
2 heaping tablespoonfuls of ginger,
Flour to roll out.

Bake in a quick oven.

CINNAMON-CAKES.

1 pint of molasses,
1 pint of shortening (butter or lard, or part of each),
1 pint of cold water,
1 heaping teaspoonful of soda,
1 teaspoonful of salt,
1 tablespoonful of finely ground cinnamon.

Beat all together until smoothly mixed, then work in flour enough to make a soft dough. Roll out half an inch thick, cut in rounds, brush with melted butter, dust with powdered sugar, and bake in a quick oven.

LEMON-SNAPS (delicious).

1 cupful of sugar,
 $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cupful of butter,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in 2 teaspoonfuls of hot water,
Flour enough to roll out quite thin.

Flavor with lemon, bake in a quick oven.

PUMPKIN PIE.

1 quart of stewed pumpkin,
2 tablespoonfuls of flour,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cupfuls of sugar,
1 quart of cream,
1 quart of milk.

Season with nutmeg, bake with one crust. Sufficient for six pies.

CREAM PIE.

1 cupful of good, sweet cream,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cupful of flour.

Gradually wet the flour with sweet milk until the cup is full and the flour is stirred smooth; then add the cream, sweeten to taste, flavor with lemon, and bake with a single crust.

WHIPPED-CREAM PIE.—Bake the crusts and set away to cool. Whip one cupful of rich, thick, sweet cream with an egg-beater or fork until stiff, sweeten to taste with granulated sugar, flavor with lemon or vanilla, put into the crusts and spread smooth. Set in a cool place, and serve cold. Enough for two pies.

CLARA SENSIBOUGH EVERTS.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR.

I have a sure, quick remedy. To prove it, I will send a \$1.00 bottle, sealed, free. Address Mrs. J. De Vere, P. O. Box 494, Philadelphia, Pa.



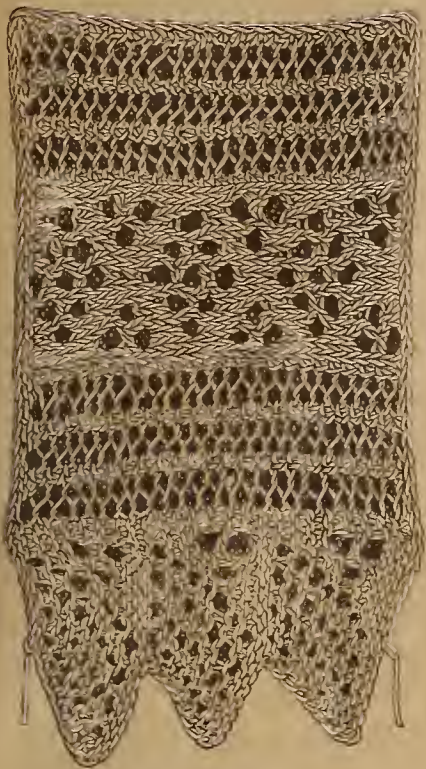
BABY'S DRESS.

can be attached to the pump, and the cold water pumped right into the tub. With a hot-water tank on the cook-stove, which can be filled in the same way, the water question will be solved quite satisfactorily. A waste-pipe from the bath-tub will empty it without any trouble.

If you are planning a new house, don't fail to have a bath-room. If your house is

WIDE KNIT GEORGIE LACE.

ABBREVIATIONS:—K, knit; sl, slip; o, over; oo, over twice; n, narrow; p, purl. Cast on 45 st, k once across plain.



WIDE KNIT GEORGIE LACE.

First row—Sl 1, k 2, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, k 5, n, oo, n, k 7, o, n, k 1, o, n, k 1, o, n, k 2, * o and n three times, o, k 2; turn.

Second row—K 13, ** (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, p 7, k 1, p 6, k 2, (o, n, k 1) three times; turn.

Third row—Sl 1, k 2, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, k 3, n, oo, n, n, oo, n, k 5, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, * k 3, o and n three times, o, k 2; turn.

Fourth row—K 14, ** (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, p 5, k 1, p 3, k 1, p 4, k 2, (o, n, k 1) three times; turn.

Fifth row—Sl 1, k 2, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, k 1, (n, oo, n) three times, k 3, o, n, k 1, o, n, k 1, o, n, k 4, (o and n) three times, o, k 2; turn.

Sixth row—K 15, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, (p 3, k 1) three times, p 2, k 2, (o, n, k 1) three times; turn.

Seventh row—Repeat the third row to *, then n, oo, n, k 1, (o and n) three times, o, k 2; turn.

Eighth row—K 12, p 1, k 3, then repeat the fourth row from **.

Ninth row—Repeat the first row to *, n, oo, n, (o and n) three times, o, k 2; turn.

Tenth row—K 11, p 1, k 5. Repeat the second row from **.

Eleventh row—Sl 1, k 2, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, n, oo, n, k 6, n, oo, n, k 2, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, *, n, oo, n, k 3, (o, n) three times, o, k 2; turn.

Twelfth row—K 14, p 1, k 3, ** (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, p 2, k 1, p 9, k 1, p 1, k 2, (o, n, k 1) three times; turn.

Thirteenth row—Sl 1, k 2, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, (k 2, n, oo, n) twice, k 4, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, k 8, (o and n) three times, o, k 2; turn.

Fourteenth row—K 19, (o, n, k 1) twice, o, n, p 4, k 1, p 5, k 1, p 3, k 2, (o, n, k 1) three times; turn.

Fifteenth row—Repeat the eleventh row to *, k 17; turn.

Sixteenth row—Slip and bind off 7 st, k 11. Repeat the twelfth row from **.

Repeat from the first row for the length required.

ELLA McCOWEN.

DIFFERENCE IN METHODS.

A recent misanthropic writer thus contrasts man's and woman's methods:

A man refuses to drive a nail unless he has a hammer or a hatchet. A woman does not hesitate to use a poker, or the heel of her shoe, or the back of a brush. Man thinks it absolutely necessary to have a corkscrew to draw a cork. Woman will gouge it out with her scissors or knife or button-hook. If it won't come up it will go down, and, after all, the contents of the bottle are what is wanted.

A man regards a razor as consecrated to one calling. A woman has a higher opinion of its versatility, and uses it to sharpen pencils and trim corns. These side offices, surreptitiously formed, lead her husband to say malignant things about razors and their makers.

When a man writes, he demands pomp and circumstance, and as wide an orbit as one of the planets. Pen, ink and paper must be "just so," and he shuts up the

whole family in the Tower of Silence, and nobody is allowed to think hard.

When a woman writes, she gathers up nondescript paper, stray copy-book leaves, backs of old envelopes, sharpens her pencil with the scissors, and placing them on an old atlas, or the "cutting-board," tucks one foot under her, rocks comfortably back and forth, sucks her pencil periodically, and produces "copy."

She is oblivious to Tommy distractedly adding and subtracting in a high key; to Mollie beating French verbs into her brain by a succession of audible thumps and much vibrant buzzing; to Sallie running the scales; to the cook, who demands supplies every few moments.

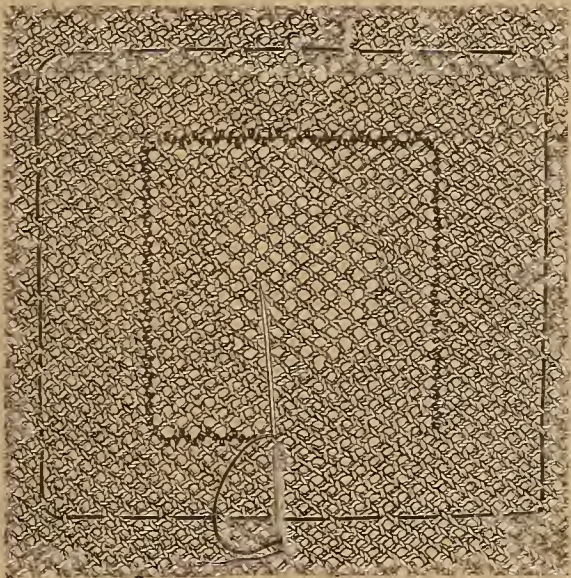
She makes her lovers woo and quarrel and marry, and the villains kill each other, in the most circumscribed space.

A man demands illimitable space and annexed territory for the like deeds. He fumes and frets if the blotting-paper is not at hand. She "blows" the ink dry, or waves the paper in midair, and takes the chances for blots. He says things about ink which are enough to pale and enrdle it. She jabs her pen in and about and around, and at last gets a "flow;" whereas, the things he has been known to affirm concerning pens, this pen refuses to record.

DARNING.

No, you do not like to do it—no one does; and yet it is such a necessary thing to know, one might as well know how to do it nicely.

An easy and very neat way is shown in the illustration. Baste over the hole a



DARNING.

piece of black net—the manner of fastening it is simple—then use the meshes of the lace to darn in back and forth. By so doing, the work makes a regular appearance, and the method is easy enough for a small child.

I do not know why mothers, by expressing their own dislikes to certain kinds of household work, must hand it down to another generation, as they certainly do. A little child overhears you say you don't like to darn stockings or wash dishes. Straightway the little woman forms the idea that she does not, either.

If we do not like to do many of the things we must do, is it not better to preserve a little silence upon that very subject, and in this way lift the strain upon it? There is too much talking, these days, as to what we like to do and what we do not. Be cheerful as possible over unpleasant things, and at least keep the sweetness of your own self intact, and the frowns and wrinkles from your face.

L. L. CHRISTIE.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS.

We all of us like to invite a few friends to spend a pleasant evening with us, but the ever-ending question is, "What shall I do to entertain them?" The refreshment part is easily settled—sandwiches, cakes, fruit, nuts, ice-cream and coffee or chocolate—but the entertainment part is more difficult. As I have been to several novel affairs lately, and they are considered new, I thought I would tell the young people of the FARM AND FIRESIDE about them, and perhaps it will help you in some of your social gatherings.

Take two pieces of white paper, each ten

IVORY SOAP

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Chapping is caused by the removal of oil which is necessary to keep the skin supple. Those who suffer from this cause should use only a mild and pure soap like Ivory.

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO., CINCINNATI.

inches long and four inches wide, and tie them together at the top with pretty, yellow ribbon; under the bow write, "A Floral Love Tale." On the inside of one piece put the numbers from one to twenty, and write these questions:

1. The maiden's name and the color of her hair.
2. An adjective that suited her and her brother's name.
3. His favorite sport in winter.
4. His favorite musical instrument.
5. The hour he awakened his father playing upon it.
6. What his father gave him in punishment.
7. What this made the boy do.
8. The name of his sister's young man, and what he wrote it with.
9. What he, being single, often lost.
10. What candies did he bring to Mary?
11. What did he do when he popped the question, one fall day?
12. What ghastly trophy did he offer her?
13. What did she say to him as he knelt before her?
14. What token did she give him?
15. To whom did she refer him?
16. What minister married them?
17. What did John say when leaving her, one fall day?
18. What was she doing his absence?
19. What fragrant letter did he send her?
20. What shall we say of them in conclusion?

On the top of the other piece of paper put "Answers," and then put the numbers from one to twenty. Give each one a program and a lead-pencil, and tell them each question is to be answered by the name of a flower, and they can have only twenty minutes to do it in, and they must keep quiet and have no communication with each other. When the time is up, some gentleman whom you have selected (and, of course, is not among the guessers) rings a bell, and all stop writing. Then he reads each question and gives the right answer, and each person checks all they

fun, and takes nearly an hour. Then let some one recite, sing or play, and then pass refreshments, and I know all will say they have had an enjoyable evening.

These are the correct answers to the questions:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Marigold. | 11 Aster. |
| 2 Sweet-william. | 12 Bleeding-heart. |
| 3 Snowball. | 13 Johnny-jump-up. |
| 4 Trumpet. | 14 Tulip. |
| 5 Four-o'clock. | 15 Poppy. |
| 6 Goldenrod. | 16 Jack-in-the-pulpit |
| 7 Hops. | 17 Forget-me-not. |
| 8 Jonquils. | 18 Morning-bride. |
| 9 Bachelor's-bntons. | 19 A Sweet-pea. |
| 10 Buttercups. | 20 Live-for-ever. |

Any one could improve on this list and get up an entirely original one, as plenty of other flowers could be used in a similar way.

J. A.

Undo it yourself :
then it's easy ;
otherwise the
DeLONG

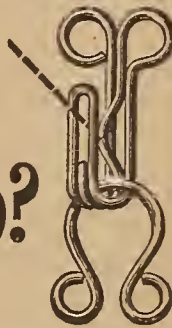
Patent

Hook and Eye

never un-
fastens.

See that

hump?

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ANKLES, LAME AND SWOLLEN JOINTS.

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BABY'S CLOAK.

have wrong. When finished, the person having the most answers right receives a prize, which in this case was a two-pound box of candy, and the booby prize was a lovely bunch of violets. It makes lots of

Our Household.

TOO YOUNG.

THE other day I walked out of church with our presiding elder. It was quarterly meeting, and he had preached. As we passed through the churchyard, and looked across the smooth, green lawn which spreads between the church and the cozy parsonage, we were struck with the beauty of the scene. Our minister and his wife are each about thirty years old; the presiding elder and I are about sixty. The elder turned to me, and said:

"What a charming spot this is! Do you think the parson and his wife appreciate it?"

I answered, "Yes, I think they do."

My companion retorted quickly, "No, they don't; they can't; they are too young."

I like the elder—for many reasons. I like him particularly because he always gives me food for thought.

Too young! We often hear it said that a person is too old for some position of enjoyment or honor; this is a new view. You young folks look in pity on men and women of threescore, but that is on account of your inexperience. Listen, and you shall hear some of the disadvantages of being young.

You don't know the value of money. There was a girl who married in our town, and her father gave her fifteen thousand dollars. The young man who was her husband got ten thousand more from his father. In ten years all that money was gone. That couple was too young.

You don't know the value of health. I knew a girl who didn't know what it was to feel an ache or a pain. She laughed at the idea of taking cold. She would not wear thick shoes; she hated flannel underclothes, and the other day I saw her going to a doctor's office, where she told me she was taking treatment. I have known young men just as reckless. It may be heroic for a soldier to sleep on wet ground, march with damp feet, and eat poor food. In that case, when rheumatism comes, he deserves sympathy and a pension, but the young man who wastes his physical resources is foolish, and deserves what he gets; namely, a spell of sickness and a doctor's bill to pay.

You don't know the value of love. Young woman, if you act the coquette and trifle with the hearts of two or three young men, you will be sorry some day, and you will say, "I didn't know how cruel I was. I was too young."

you, but do you occasionally take a drink in a saloon, or swear, or go where there are low men and women? Young woman, are you less dignified than your mother, and are you sometimes guilty of actions which your father would disapprove? Be careful. The high position you have may be lost, and then you will lament, "I did not know how precious were my innocence, my family honor, my good reputation. I was too young."

Of course, you will say that Aunt Griselda is terribly prosy and preachy. It is because I love you youngsters. And those who have made mistakes, how my heart yearns toward you! Is there no hope? you ask. Yes; always hope. You remember that wonderful miracle, where a great multitude was fed with a few loaves and fishes, and afterward they gathered up twelve basketfuls of fragments. It seems to me sometimes that after a certain period of life we have to subsist on fragments of preceding feasts. Fragments of beauty, substance, love, and most of all, fragments of wisdom bought by experience. And yet it is possible to take a brighter view than that. Jesus said, "Gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost." Some of those fragments must have been very soiled, mussed and unattractive, and perhaps Jesus meant that those people should give the leavings to others less fortunate (just as we always give our fragments of advice to wretches less lucky than ourselves). At any rate, as you finish each episode of life, whether successful or disastrous, gather up the fragments; they will be valuable to you or somebody else, and don't think for a moment that we wise old fogies feel very much above you; or, if we do, it is only after the errors we made when, to appreciate the best in life, we, also, were "too young."

LINEN CENTERPIECE.

This centerpiece is worked in white around the edge. The fancy scrolls can either be done in darning of silk of another color, or lace can be basted in the figure, and after the embroidery around it is completed, the linen underneath can be cut away.

This is a lovely design when finished. Use the fine twisted silk for the edge, called "two-for-five," and filo for the other parts. We will send this design (Premium No. 567), stamped on an excellent quality of linen, one half yard square, to any address, postage paid, for twenty-five cents; or with the FARM AND FIRESIDE one year for fifty cents.

KITCHEN DUMB-WAITER.

In many farm-houses the kitchen chimney comes down into the room and then stops, leaving a place that is never used. The accompanying sketch illustrates a use to which

one farmer has put it, and one which all housewives will appreciate. A "dummy" made as described saves many a weary trip down the cellar stairs. If there is no cellar, a pit can be dug that will serve the purpose as well.

A large rock or a foot-thick block of Portland cement is used for the base. Scantlings 2x4 inches are used for the supports, and are kept in place by the planks that form the sides. There are three shelves that slip up and down by the use of a pulley and weights. The chimney rests on a two-inch plank, and has at its base a

pocket of Portland cement, that prevents fire and catches rain or soot from above. The chimney-hole being from eight to twelve inches above this, it can be easily cleaned out once or twice a year.

ABIGAIL GOLDSMITH.

ONIONS.

There are but few people with whom onions do not agree. Most people need to eat them at least once a week, especially in winter. They arouse the digestive organs to activity, and help carry off waste matter. A prominent public speaker says whenever



LINEN CENTERPIECE.

he has taken cold or becomes hoarse, he eats nothing for supper but a bowl of onions boiled soft; they cure his cold and tone up his system generally.

Before onions are fried, boiling water should be poured on them and allowed to boil at least three minutes, then poured off.

If ripe onions are sliced and allowed to stand in salt and water half an hour, then eaten raw, they will taste as fresh and mild as young summer onions.

The unpleasant odor in the breath after eating onions may be overcome by drinking a cup of coffee, eating celery or a sprig of parsley.

Onions and carrots, sliced, scalded and stewed together, then dressed with butter, milk and a little flour, make a most tempting dish, and one which will leave no unpleasant odor on the breath.

New potatoes and green onions, sliced and stewed together, then dressed with cream or milk and butter, make a dish which even the fastidious ones enjoy.

If, when onions are first put on to cook, some water and vinegar are put on the stove in an open vessel and allowed to boil, there will be no smell of onions remaining in the room, nor "all over the house." Also, if vinegar and water are boiled a few minutes in the vessel in which onions have been cooked, it will be cleansed from the taste which is usually so hard to cleanse from such vessels. Vinegar may be used in the same way for cabbage, turnips or any other vegetables which give off disagreeable odors while cooking.

ELLA B. SIMMONS.

GOOD RECIPES.

MACARONI.—Take half a package of macaroni and boil it in salt-water until perfectly tender. In a baking-dish scatter a layer of macaroni, and over this a layer of grated cheese, alternating until the dish is full. Season with pepper, salt and butter. Cover with milk, and bake until brown.

EGG PUFFS.—White of an egg beaten to a perfectly stiff froth; add an ounce and a half of powdered sugar, and beat again until perfectly stiff. Take a very coarse rag, say cheese-cloth, and strain this preparation through. Use your ingenuity and vary the design occasionally. Set the pan in a cold oven. Let these puffs naturally dry out. Try these delicious pastries.

DELICIOUS TOAST.—Take two or three eggs, beat well, add salt and a lump of butter, melted. Have ready some slices of stale bread, soak well in this mixture, and fry quickly. If you prefer, you can crush the bread into crumbs, mix with the beaten eggs, and drop with a spoon into a skillet of hot lard. Again, you may, if you choose, make a stiff batter exactly as if for pancakes; dip the slices of bread in this batter, and fry a rich brown. **CARRIE O'NEAL.**

Pears'

What is the use of being clean!

They, who use Pears' soap, know.

THERE'S NO EXCUSE

For having freckles, blackheads, tanned, red, spotted, mothy, ugly or muddy skin, pimples, tetter, eczema, rashes, etc., when

Derma-Royale
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easily, quickly and forever removes and cures every blemish and makes the skin clear, soft and beautiful. There is nothing like it. Leading actresses, professional beauties, society ladies and people of refinement everywhere eagerly unite in its praise. Hundreds of testimonials with portraits will be sent free to anyone who writes for them. Derma-Royale is the best skin preparation in the world. We will give \$500 cash for any case it fails to cure. Wherever it is once tried everybody wants it, so we are determined to introduce it everywhere, and will send you a full-sized

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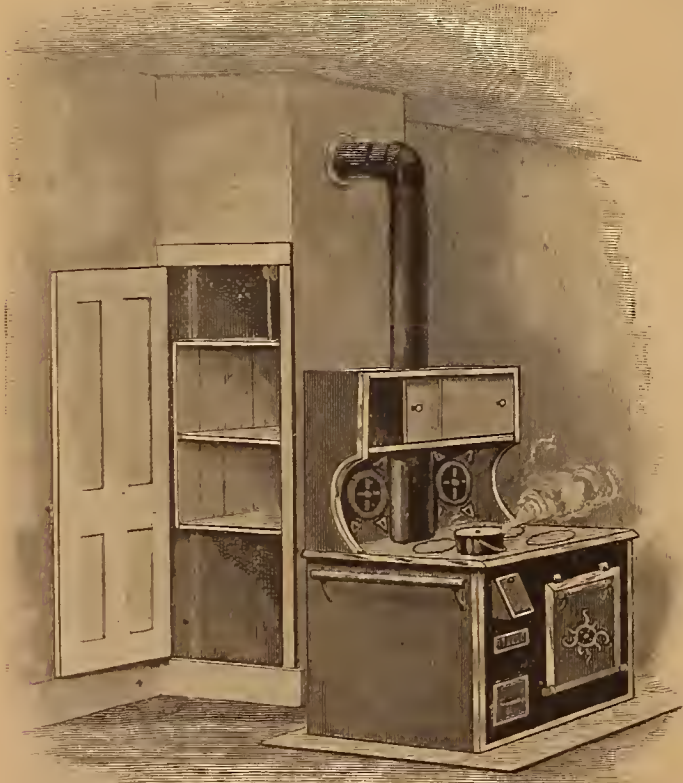
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(From U. S. Journal of Medicine.) Prof. W. H. PEEKE, who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any living Physician, his success is astonishing. We have heard of cases of 20 years' standing cured by him. He publishes a valuable work on this disease which he sends with a large bottle of his absolute cure, free to any sufferer who may send their P. O. and Express address. We advise anyone wishing a cure to address, Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F. D., 4 Cedar St., New York.



DUMB-WAITER.

Young man, if you see that a nice girl likes you, don't scorn her loving kindness. Don't flatter yourself that there are plenty more women in the world. If you believe that true love is plentiful and cheap, it is because you are too young.

You don't know the value of reputation. Think of it; your father and mother are so well respected; there is never a word of scandal breathed against them; your father's word is his bond; your mother's presence hushes all rough talk; they are at church every Sunday. Young man, do you feel secure in the position they give

Our Sunday Afternoon.

THE GERMAN PEASANT'S NEW-YEAR.

We deck the dear Christ's shrine to-day.
The scarlet berries shine between
The winter branches darkly green;
And we a New-Year's blessing pray.

Lord, may the household prosper still,
The children thrive, the stock increase;
Send humble plenty, hope and peace,
With wealth and strength, if such thy will.

And, far all other gifts above,
To be together, that is best.
For we can live without the rest,
But life is empty without love.

—S. St. G. Lawrence.

CAPACITY FOR IDLENESS.

I HAVE never found a man, says the writer of "The Point of View" in *Scribner's Magazine*, wholesome and lovable to the core, who had not somewhere in his composition a capacity for wide and smiling idleness. For your overbusy person needs be of necessity a coward or an egotist. Either he permits himself to be whipped by life into a nervous and flinching energy, because he is not strong enough and courageous enough to offer the necessary resistance, or else he is of that class of self-appointed heroes who have a taste for being at the front and who find no privilege of exemption half so dear as the opportunity for self-expression that comes with participation.

A great deal of unnecessary work, such as congresses for discussions, and societies for advancements, and fin-de-siècle literature, gets itself done in this way and by these persons, not because the world is in any way benefited by such performances, but simply because the performers are not able to efface themselves and their opinions. One longs at last for the cool presence of the idler, to whom "life is for itself, and not for a spectacle," and who has no feeling of uneasy resentment that there is not provided a desperate situation for him to redeem.

I do not believe that Shakspeare ever thought the better of himself, except perhaps before Anne Hathaway and his debtors, for having written the sonnets, nor am I uncomfortable in the opinion that Shakspeare's peers have lived and died so blessed by fortune and a high indifference as to be under no temptation to coin their gold and barter it for a world's consideration. For in the richest nature its activities distil back into itself, and thereby is knowledge fortified into wisdom, and both ripen into character. Happy and thrice happy is the man whose life to him a kingdom is, and who is of the royal blood to sit down and enjoy it.

IT WILL DO TO BUY.

"Buy the truth, and sell it not." Prov. xxiii. 23. A rich gentleman in Memphis showed me a collection of rare stones which he had gathered at great expense. He would not sell them. He wished to transmit them to his children. The royal diamonds of England cost much, but they are not for sale. The merchantman who found the pearl of great price, sold all he had that he might buy it, but it was never on the market again; he would not sell it. So with truth. The Christian, especially the preacher, should be willing to pay any price for it, but it should not be for sale. No inducement should lead him to give up one jot or tittle of truth, moral, religious or experimental. It often costs no little for a man to be honest and truthful; to contend "for the faith once for all delivered to the saints;" to get the living truth, which he can learn only in the school of trial; but he should be willing to pay the price for it. It is worth all it costs.—Rev. A. C. Dixon.

THE PROPHECY ABOUT THE PAPYRUS.

It was along the shores of the river Nile, in Egypt, that the papyrus grew. From this plant the Egyptians manufactured the utensils of life. They made from it boats and wickerwork, such as the little ark in which the infant Moses was placed in the waters. His mother took an ark of bulrushes, the papyrus-plant, and daubed it with slime and pitch, and put the child therein.

But this curious plant was most generally used for the purpose of making the material on which the Egyptians wrote, whence our word "paper." Their public documents, their private epistles, the records of their courts, councils and corporations, were inscribed on the papyrus.

It was this papyrus-plant entering so greatly into the economy of the Egyptians to which the Prophet Isaiah referred, when, in pronouncing the judgments of God against Egypt, he says: "The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, shall wither, be driven away and be no more." Isa. xix. 7. Now notice how this prophecy is fulfilled. You may go through the land of Egypt, and no vestige of this papyrus remains. It is found in other countries, where it is cultivated as a curiosity; but in Egypt, its home, it finds no place. How wonderful the wisdom that could foresee and the power that could bring to pass an event like this!

RELIGION FOR THE YOUNG.

Did it ever occur to you how much the world is dominated by the idea that religion is only for the day of darkness and doubt? When the clouds gather thickly, almost everybody has a prayer to say. They are like the little child who naively confessed that he said his prayers only at night, "because in the daytime he could take care of

himself." We are ready enough to feel that men and women who are drifting out of life, beyond the care and help of human hands, need the hand of the great Father to lead them through the unknown valley; and yet the awful crying need is for those who are trying to live in this life, where they are making not only their own, but others' destinies without Christ.—*The Outlook*.

CHRIST IN THE HEART AND IN THE HOME.

The heart is Christ's most coveted home—your heart and mine; and when he is within our heart we can take him into these buildings which we call home, but not until then. We are in an age when Christ is being taken into the home. It will be an age on ages telling because of this.

This age is the John the Baptist for the coming century. It is saying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." The hour is drawing nearer when there shall be more of the living Christ in the homes of our land; more of Christ back of all life and its expression.

What an age of righteousness is coming! I should like to live to see it, and if God gives to the young of this generation the allotted length of days, we may all hope to touch its borders, at least, for we see it from Pisgah now.

Take this risen, living Savior into your heart, my reader. Ask him to abide with you the remainder of your life. He will change the character of all within and around you. He walks with you this moment. Stop! 'Tis he that speaks with you by his spirit now. Take him home! Take him home! 'Tis thy Savior, the living Christ.—*Presbyterian Messenger*.

WHAT A WOMAN CAN DO!

I want my lady friends to know of the new field now open for them. In the past six months we have made a profit of \$907.02 after paying all expenses. All our sales have been made at home, not having canvassed any. My official duties calling me away most of the time, I left the Dish Washer business in my wife's control with the above results. The business is rapidly increasing, and will continue to grow until every family has a Climax Dish Washer. Not a day passes but what we sell one or two, and some days fifteen or twenty Dish Washers. It's easy selling what everybody wants to buy. You can wash and dry the dishes perfectly in two minutes. For full particulars address the Climax Mfg. Co., 36 Starr Ave., Columbus, Ohio. Get a sample dish washer and you cannot help but make money. The Climax Mfg. Co. do not ask any pay until you have the Dish Washers sold. You may just as well be making \$5 a day as to be doing nothing.

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Take a Step in the Right Direction.

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MARTIN, Tenn., Aug. 21, 1894.

THE OWEN ELECTRIC BELT AND APPLIANCE CO., Chicago, Ill.

GENTLEMEN: I received my belt and directions the 14th of last January. I had it on in less than three hours after receiving it. I have worn it almost constantly since then; put it on on getting up, and take it off on retiring. I feel I owe my good health to the Owen Electric Belt. I think it is the greatest boon to suffering women that has ever been discovered. I feel that I can hardly live without it. Could I get no other, I have frequently told my friends, I wouldn't take its weight in gold. For weak back, general debility and nervousness, it has no superior. With a heart full of gratitude to you, I am,

Very respectfully yours,

MRS. J. D. BALDRIDGE.

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A Great Sufferer from Neuralgia of the Stomach Cured

BY THE OWEN ELECTRIC BELT.

CLYDE, Minn., May 19, 1894.

DR. A. OWEN.

DEAR SIR: For three years I have been a great sufferer with what the doctors call neuralgia of the stomach, and all last summer I was not able to do my work. My stomach was so weak and all of the medicines I took did me no good. My doctor said a change of climate would help me and so I went to Chicago and stayed three months but was no better. Before I came home I called at your offices and got one of your belts. After I wore it one week I was a great deal better. I have worn the belt three months and am better now than I have been for three years. I would not part with my Owen Electric Belt for one thousand dollars if I knew I could not get another one. It has been a God-send to me and I wish all sufferers would and could wear one of the Owen Electric Belts. Yours truly,

MRS. D. H. HILTZ.

Published by permission.

A Public Acknowledgment of the GOOD IT HAS DONE.

HILLSBORO, N. D., 6-27, '94.

DR. A. OWEN.

DEAR SIR: I should have written to you long ago to inform you how much I owe to the Owen Electric Belt, but it was some time before I could bring myself to publicly acknowledge it; however I have come to the conclusion that I owe to you and to suffering humanity to report what your treatment has done in my case. For years I had been troubled with nervous debility. I was in the last stage of that dread complaint and despaired of ever getting relieved. In the month of July last I decided to try your Electric Belt as a last resort and I am very happy to state it has done more for me than I thought was possible. It has made me a healthy man, in fact I feel stronger than ever in my life. I consider your belt the only cure for nervous debility, and I shall always recommend it. Wishing you every success, I remain, Yours truly,

Box 290.

PETER ANDERSON.

Persons making inquiries from the writers of testimonials will please inclose self-addressed stamped envelope to insure prompt reply.

Write To-day

For Our Large Illustrated Catalogue,

explaining all about the Owen Electric Belt and Appliances, what they have done, what they are doing, and what they will do; illustrations of the different belts and appliances, with prices and how to order, and other valuable information for the afflicted. Catalogues in either English, German, Swedish or Norwegian will be mailed to any address upon receipt of address and 6 cents postage. Write for our treatise on Rupture Cured With Electric Truss.

Write To-day

The Owen Electric Belt and Appliance Co.,

Main Office and Only Factory, 201-211 State St., Chicago, Ill.

MENTION THIS PAPER.

The Largest Electric Belt Establishment in the World.

Our Miscellany.

VENICE is built on eighty islands.

THE English tongue is spoken by 115,000,000 people.

ONLY seven of the transatlantic cables are still in use.

THERE are estimated to be 1,000,000 Germans in the United States.

St. Vitus' Dance. One bottle Dr. Fenner's Specific cures. Circular, Fredonia, N. Y.

A SCHOOLMA'AM in Massillon, Ohio, who has been teaching the rising generation ever since the year 1845, was recently given a pension of \$350 per year by the board of education.

SOUTH AMERICAN aunts have been known to construct a tunnel three miles in length, a labor for them proportionate to that which would be required for men to tunnel under the Atlantic from New York to London.

IF DURING THE PAST SIXTY YEARS, and longer, Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant has been bringing relief to the thousands who have used it for Bronchitis, Asthma, &c., would it not be wisdom for you to give it a trial now? It has cured others, why not you?

AN honest Pennsylvania farmer recently saw an advertisement in a paper saying that for ten dollars the advertiser would tell how to keep butter from getting strong. The farmer promptly sent the money, and at once received the reply, "Eat it."

THE influence of forests in protecting the water supply is well illustrated in the case of Greece. In ancient days she possessed 7,500,000 acres of forest. To-day she has hardly 2,000,000 acres, and the scarcity of water and other injurious climatic effects are traceable to the destruction of the trees.

RUSSIA proposes to celebrate Jenner's discovery of vaccination, the one hundredth anniversary of which occurs next year, by offering prizes for works on vaccination, by publishing histories of the practice of vaccination in Russia and in western Europe, and by a commemorative meeting and exhibition of objects connected with vaccination.

PERHAPS the most wonderful specimen of the cutler's craft in the world is the knife to be seen in the show-rooms of a celebrated Sheffield cutlery firm. This extraordinary knife is provided with one blade for every year since the commencement of the Christian era; the number of blades, of course, now being 1,895. Blades are inserted five at a time at the lapse of every five years.

EVERY woman's library should contain a copy of the book "Tokology," by Dr. Alice Stockham. Many of the ills of a woman's life can be easily and pleasantly avoided by following the teachings of this book. It has no relation to the quack doctor books, but is pure and elevating in its tone and teachings, and a perfectly safe book for any and every one. It can be purchased from Dr. Alice Stockham, Chicago, Ill.

THERE seems to be little that the plucky Japanese cannot take hold of and handle successfully, but we confess our surprise at finding them ready to undertake cable-laying. It is stated that they have bought eight hundred knots of submarine cable to connect Japan with Formosa, and are going to lay it themselves. The next thing they will do will be to manufacture the cable itself and supply the whole eastern world. When the time comes for connecting Asia with America by direct cable, the alert and energetic Japanese may want to do some more cable-work, and judging from present indications, they are far more likely to be "in it" than Americans are. Somehow our cable manufacturers, admirable as are their products, never go down to deep-sea work.

HOW TO OWN A HOME.

If the statements made in the columns of this paper, under the immediate auspices of what is known as the Clark Syndicate Companies of Western Florida, can be borne out to the extent of sixty per cent of what is written, then it seems to us as if every man who has any knowledge of the cultivation of the soil should be able to own a comfortable home in Western Florida within a reasonable time, and at comparatively small expense.

The testimony of the men who have tilled the soil in that section for many years, and who have stated over their signatures just what they have produced and sold from year to year, the very strong testimony from the clergymen of that region, and from the officials in authority at the capital of the state, all pointing in one direction, all testifying in the strongest terms as to the character of the soil, climate and the people, warrant us in saying that if the results are at all commensurate with the published testimony, there are exceptional opportunities for a comparatively poor man to own, in a very little time, a comfortable home for himself and his family.

PARISIAN PETS.

Parisians are intensely fond of canaries and other pet birds. It is estimated, figuring on the amount spent for bird food at the regular stores, that there are fully 100,000 pet birds in the city, or one to every twentieth individual, including babies.

ANIMALS THAT WENT INTO THE ARK.

As far back as the seventeenth century far-sighted theologians had begun to discern difficulties more serious than any that had before confronted them, says Andrew White, in the *Popular Science Monthly*. More and more it was seen that the number of different species was far greater than the world had hitherto imagined. Greater and greater had become the old difficulty in conceiving that of these innumerable species each had been specially created by the Almighty hand, that each had been brought before Adam by the Almighty to be named, and that each, in couples or in sevens, had been gathered by Noah into the ark. But the difficulties thus suggested were as nothing compared to those raised by the distribution of animals.

Even in the first days of the church this had aroused serious thought, and above all in the great mind of St. Augustine. In his "City of God" he had stated the difficulty as follows: "But there is a question about all these kinds of beasts, which are neither tamed by man nor spring from the earth like frogs, such as wolves and others of that sort, * * * as to how they could find their way to the islands after that flood which destroyed every living thing not preserved in the ark. * * * Some, indeed, might be thought to reach islands by swimming, in case these were not very far, but some islands are so remote from continental lands that it does not seem possible that any creature could reach them by swimming. It is not an incredible thing, either, that some animals may have been captured by men and taken with them to those lands which they intended to inhabit, in order that they might have the pleasure of hunting, and it cannot be denied that the transfer may have been accomplished through the agency of angels, commanded or allowed to perform this labor by God."

HOW TO KEEP A GIRL.

If housekeepers would take a hint from hotels, says a hotel man, they would have less trouble with their servants. Hotel men have no trouble in getting all the help they want, though they offer moderate wages. The difference is not so much in the work as in the hours. In a private house a girl's labors are from the rising of the sun, even unto the going down of the same, and more, too. And if she does not get through her work and ventures to sit down, her mistress is apt to object. In a hotel, a girl has certain well-defined duties to perform, and after they are performed, as a rule, her time is her own. If such arrangement could be recognized in private houses, the servant problem would be much simplified.

LEARN THE VALUE OF MAIZE.

Italians have learned the value of Indian corn. Long ago they substituted corn-meal for chestnut flour in making polenta, and the result was a cheaper and more wholesome food. The Italians at home make polenta chiefly with yellow corn-meal; here they often, perhaps usually, use the white meal. The polenta is nourishing, palatable to those who have been brought up to oil and garlic, and digestible enough if the consumer be occupied with physical toil.—*New York Sun*.

BROKE THE TOBACCO TRUST.

TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS LOSING TEN MILLIONS A YEAR—GREAT EXCITEMENT IN ST. LOUIS—NO POSSIBILITY OF PREVENTING STILL GREATER LOSS IN '96.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23, 1895.—[Special.]—Col. Wm. Keechhoff, Genl. Western Manager of the American Tobacco Company, has been a user of tobacco all his life, and for years has smoked as many as twenty cigars daily. After using a few boxes of No-To-Bac the desire for tobacco is completely gone, and he is wonderfully improved in health. His cure is attracting a great deal of attention and comment, and many prominent St. Louis business men are following his example. People are just waking up to the fact that the continued use of tobacco is very injurious.

An interview with Mr. H. L. Kramer, the originator of No-To-Bac, develops the fact that within three years it has reached an enormous sale, almost entirely upon merit alone. Over one million boxes of No-To-Bac have been sold, and 300,000 tobacco users cured. At present rate No-To-Bac will cure in '96 from 200,000 to 300,000, and as Mr. Kramer says, "it is always the worst cases that want a cure; those who have chewed and smoked from boyhood—some of them thirty, forty and fifty years, and we even have records of cures after sixty years of tobacco using. So you can see that, if they are spending an average of \$50.00 a year (this is a small amount), the cure of 200,000 tobacco users in '96 would result in the loss of the sale of tobacco amounting to over \$10,000,000 which will be saved to the cured."

No-To-Bac is truly a medical wonder, for it not only destroys the desire for tobacco, but invigorates the nervous system and marvelously increases weight and strength. Like all great successes, No-To-Bac has many imitations and substitutes, and the public should be warned against them. No-To-Bac is the original tobacco habit cure, and is sold under an absolute guarantee to cure the tobacco habit, by your own druggist.

THE ORIGIN OF CARDS AND CHESS.

One of the attractions of the Atlanta exposition is a number of specimens showing the early origin of chess and card-playing. It is exhibited by Stewart Culin, of the University of Pennsylvania. He sent thirty-four upright cases and one large table case containing the objects in a carefully arranged series, showing the evolution of the games. They tell the history of cards and chess, beginning with the more primitive forms known, and extending to the present day. Mr. Culin discovered a clue to the origin of games among the American Indians.

The pack of cards is shown to have originally consisted of a bundle of practical arrows, marked with the signs of the world quarters. The feathered part of these arrows, bearing cosmical marks, was first used in fortunetelling, and from this use the card games arose. In America, the Indians did not get beyond the use of carved and painted staves. The American case shows the practical arrows of the McClond river Indians of California, marked with colored ribbons, by which they were distinguished. Side by side with them are the gambling-sticks of the Haidas of Vancouver's island, similarly marked with rings of color and used like cards in their gambling even at the present day. In the adjoining case, devoted to eastern Asia, the practice arrows of Corea are shown, and with them the derived playing-cards, here made of oiled paper, yet bearing, both on the backs and faces, devices copied from the cut feathers of the arrows.

With them are Chinese cards with the same emblems surviving as markers, or indexes, at the ends. These cards are double-headed, as indeed were the gambling-sticks, carrying back the idea of the common playing-cards with double heads and index marks to the most remote antiquity.

HOW TO CARE FOR BOOKS.

Books, like all other things, last under careful treatment, and wear badly if neglected. Nor in the autumn would they be found so dusty, sticky and shabby on their shelves if the housekeeper had had them in hand before she left for the country.

They should have been taken from the shelves, if there are no glass doors to the cases, carefully wiped with a soft cloth, every book incased in cheap, brown paper, and set back on the shelves, just close enough together to hold everyone firmly, but not tightly, in its place, standing on end. None of them should be laid on top of the others, or left leaning like wounded soldiers, for so placed they lose their compact shape and the backs weaken.

Before the books are replaced their cases ought to be drawn out from the wall and inside and out, at back and front, well brushed to clear away the book-moths, spiders, etc., that gnaw bindings and leaves.

Where there are dust-tight cases, proof against mice, moths, and that deadly enemy of books, the big brown cockroach, a thorough dusting of shelves and of every book separately is necessary. Slipping one sheet of paper between the volumes and laying strips over the tops suffices for protection.

The library should always be allowed proper ventilation through the summer, as books stored for some months in a hot, dry room will warp, stick and rot beyond repair.

In a house where, during the winter, many well-bound books lie strewn about on tables and on swinging shelves, they ought, for the summer, to be folded in paper and packed in large, shallow boxes in the same order as they are placed on shelves.—*Boston Globe*.

A DIPLOMATIC YOUNGSTER.

"Papa," said Georgie, "it worries me awful to think how much trouble I give mama."

"She hasn't complained."

"No, she's very patient. But she often sends me to the shops for things, and they are a good way off, and I know she gets cross waiting when she's in a hurry."

"Not often, I fancy."

"Oh, she's most always in a hurry. She gets everything all ready for baking, and fluds at the last minute she hasn't any yeast; or she gets a pudding all mixed, and finds she hasn't any nutmeg or something; and then she's in an awful stew, 'cause the oven is all ready, and maybe the company coming, and I can't run a very long distance, you know, and I feel awful sorry for poor mama."

"Humph! Well, what can we do about it?"

"I was thinking you might get me a bicycle."

READ THIS.

Send 25 cents and get HOARD'S DAIRYMAN, 20-page weekly devoted to dairying, until April 1st, 1896. Hoard's Dairyman, Fort Atkinson, Wis.

G. N. Co. HAS
200 ACRES
100,000 TREES
PLANTS.

One year Cherry Trees \$5.00 per 100. York State Prune.

Specialties, Red Cross Currant; Loudon Red Raspberry; Wilder Early Pear; large English Gooseberries. 80-page Catalogue, also copy of Green's Fruit Grower mailed free on application.

SACRIFICE PRICE
For Standard Bartlett and Dwarf Duchesse Pear Trees; also, Richmond Cherry.
100 CARLOADS OF PLANTS AND VINES
at Hard Times Prices.

GREEN'S NURSERY Co.
ESTABLISHED 1870.

Rochester, N. Y.

MORE MILK

and healthier cattle if your cows are well protected. Use in the construction of all out-buildings



Neponset Water-Proof Red Rope Roofing Fabric

Wind, water, frost, and vermin proof. A substitute for back plaster in dwelling houses. Will not crack or crumble.

Neponset Black Building Paper for inside lining. Better than tarred paper; odorless and clean.

A little girl protected from the rain by a sheet of "Neponset" is the trade mark.

Full particulars and samples free.

F. W. BIRD & SON, E. Walpole, Mass.

SOLE MANUFACTURERS.

250,000 Peach Trees

150,000 Pear, 100,000 Plum, 75,000 Cherry, 150,000 Apple, Quince, Apricot, Etc. 100,000 Nut Trees, 2,000,000 Small Fruits, 700,000 Roses, 1,000 car loads Ornamental Trees and Shrubs.

Full supply of flower and vegetable seeds, plants, bulbs, etc. Elegant 18-page catalogue, free. Send for it before buying. Everything mail size postpaid. Larger by express or freight. Safe arrival and satisfaction guaranteed. Direct dealing saves money.

42nd Year, 1,000 Acres. 29 Greenhouses.

STORRS & HARRISON CO.,
Box 19 PAINESVILLE, OHIO.

MAMMOTH PUMPKINS

I have grown them for 6 years. **BEST** For COOKING. For FEEDING. For ALL PURPOSES.

Price, 10 cents per packet. 3 for 25 cents. Silver or postage stamps.

C. C. ASFAHL, P. O. Box 276, Riceville, Iowa.

"Do You WANT A PICTURE OF Your Future HUSBAND or WIFE FREE?" If you do, send stamp for postage to CLIMAX CO., 85 O'Fallon, CHICAGO.

SAVE TWO PROFITS We are selling our entire line direct to Consumers. Special offer to agents free. Diamond Cutlery Co. 60 Broadway, N. Y. & 1467 State St., Chicago.

LADIES Coin money by sending 15 cents for a pair of adjustable scissors. Sharpeners and becoming our Agent. WEST & CO., Plain City, Ohio.

LADIES, If you have superfluous

HAIR ON THE FACE

send for new information how to remove it easily and effectually without chemicals or instruments. Correspondence confidential in plain sealed envelope. Mrs. M. N. PERRY, box 93, Oak Park, Ill. Say you saw this in Farm and Fireside.



OUR NEW LIFE OF LINCOLN.

We are issuing from our own presses a new and complete illustrated life of Abraham Lincoln, which will be ready for delivery soon. See advertisement on another page. This will be one of the most reliable literary works of the new year.

GREEN'S NURSERY Co.
ESTABLISHED 1870.

Rochester, N. Y.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Swelled Legs—Diseased Eye.—G. S. T., Carrollton, Ohio. Your horse that suffers from swelling of his legs undoubtedly has sores, perhaps beneath the fetlock. Bring them to healing, see to it that the legs and feet are thoroughly cleaned with a good brush at least once a day, keep the horse when in the stable on a dry and clean floor, and if the swelling then recurs, apply bandages during the night and give exercise in daytime. Existing sores you can bring to healing by applying twice a day a mixture of subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts; and if bandages have to be used, always begin bandaging at the hoof, and put on the bandages as smooth as possible.—Concerning the horse with the diseased eye, you fail to give any description upon which a diagnosis can be based. You only say that the horse keeps the eye shut, or nearly so, most of the time. Such happens to be the case in most eye diseases; therefore, not being able to make a diagnosis, I cannot answer your questions. Ask a veterinarian to examine the eye.

T. 1 SOUTH



Farm and Fireside Colony.

The lands of this colony are all situated in Leon County, and within eight miles of the beautiful city of Tallahassee, the capital of the state.

THESE LANDS WILL GROW

Hay, Corn, Oats, Sweet Potatoes, Irish Potatoes, Tomatoes, and All Kinds of Vegetables, Tobacco, Rice, Cotton, Sugar-cane, Figs, Grapes, Peaches, Pears, Peanuts, Pecan-nuts, Melons, and All Kinds of Fruits, Except Those of a Tropical Nature.

ALL WITHOUT IRRIGATION, AND ONLY 974 MILES FROM CHICAGO AND LESS THAN 1,200 FROM NEW YORK.

Address all inquiries and send all orders and remittances to

CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES, Care Farm and Fireside,
1643 Monadnock Block, Chicago, or 108 Times Building, New York City.

We will select a farm and a lot, if the purchaser so desires, and guarantee to select the best available untaken farm and lot at the time of the order. A Warranty Deed and Perfect Title Guaranteed.

Price of lands in this colony from ten to fifteen dollars per acre. Purchaser may pay one third to one half cash and the balance in one, two and three years, with interest at six per cent.

If parties desire to invest without present settlement, we will take charge of the lands free of expense, fencing and clearing any portion, and arranging that this expense may be paid by the purchaser in monthly instalments.

If they desire houses to be built, we will arrange for the erection of them at the lowest possible cost, and will make no charge for services or supervision, so that within a reasonable length of time the purchaser may have a home ready for occupancy.

Clark Syndicate Companies

IN FLORIDA.

CARRABELLE, TALLAHASSEE & GEORGIA R. R. CO.
GEORGIA & FLORIDA INVESTMENT CO.
GULF TERMINAL & NAVIGATION CO.
SCOTTISH LAND & IMPROVEMENT CO.

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WM. CLARK, President C., T. & G. R. R. and Scottish Land Co. Newark, N. J.
CHAS. M. ZEH, late President Board of Health, Newark, N. J. President Gulf Terminal and Navigation Co.
W. A. SIMMONS, Attorney at Law, New York. President Georgia and Florida Investment Co.
ROBERT CUMMING, Treasurer C., T. & G. R. R. Co. New York.
R. B. SYMINGTON, Secretary C., T. & G. R. R. Co. New York.
F. T. MYERS, Attorney for all the corporations. Tallahassee.
C. P. SIMMONS, 29 Broadway, Secretary and Treasurer G. & F. I. Co. New York.

FARM AND FIRESIDE COLONY, FLORIDA.

Extracts from letters written by C. G. Cox, of the firm of Cox & Smith, Milwaukee, Wis.

Mr. Cox visited the Clark Syndicate lands for the purpose of personally examining that section of Florida, and his report fully confirms the published representations.

LANARK, FLA., March 24, 1895.

MR. A. E. SMITH, Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Sir:—I went to see Col. R. W. Ashmore, one of the most prominent farmers in Wakulla County. He is quite an intelligent man, and I had a very nice talk with him. He was very conservative, and stated nothing but facts, without any gush; said he had been farming in this country over thirty years. I asked him whether it was a healthy country or not. He said he had paid but two doctor's bills in thirty years' residence here; said the water at his farm was excellent. It is known as "freestone" water, good, healthy drinking-water, and can be had by digging from sixteen to thirty-five feet.

He says the county is a splendid fruit-growing country; peaches and Leconte pears grow well, and can get a good crop every year. He stated he raised from 10 to 25 bushels of corn per acre, 30 to 60 bushels of rice per acre, 12 to 15 barrels of sugar-cane per acre, 200 to 400 bushels of sweet potatoes per acre. I asked him, "What about Irish potatoes?" He said he had raised good crops of Irish potatoes, but that they did not plant many Irish potatoes.

I asked him why truck farming would not pay. He said the reason they had not done any truck farming in that section was that they had no railroad facilities for getting their vegetables to the market; but as the railroad is now in and working satisfactorily, he thinks he will go to raising vegetables, and thinks it will pay him handsomely to do so.

He has become a wealthy man from the produce raised on his farm.

I asked him if I were to advise my Wisconsin friends to invest their money in a farm here, if I could do so with the assurance that they could make a living. He said that he had nothing to start with, and by working but one half of the year had made a competence for himself and family, and saw no reason why any man could not do the same who was willing to work. This he has done in the face of the fact that he had no railroad facilities for getting his products to market, and had to cart them by team to the nearest railroad station.

He, like others whom I have talked with, appears to be a fair-minded man; does not seem to boom the territory in which he lives, and acts, as other men do here, that they would like to see some intelligent farmers come into this section from the North, and is thoroughly satisfied they could make a good living from the start.

I called on Mr. Andrew S. Roberts, another prominent farmer of Wakulla County. I find him a man of intelligence and a man of considerable means, all of which he had acquired by farming, and did not have to work very hard, either. He pointed out to me a farmer in the vicinity, a Mr. Lawhorn, who started here about ten years ago with fifteen head of cattle and one horse. He has now 600 acres of good land paid for, four horses, 150 cattle, 50 hogs, buggies, wagons, etc., and has about \$1,000 in the bank. This money was made in raising stock, largely.

Of all the stock-raising countries I have ever heard of, it would seem that this was the best. I looked at several herd of cattle, which they assured me had not been foddered the whole year around, but picked up their living running about the woods and fields, and they looked to me to be in as good condition as the average herd of cattle on our northern farms. I could hardly believe this was true, but by inquiry in other quarters I find that there are very few, if any, who feed their cattle at all. Some feed their milch cows fodder; others do not give them anything. They can also raise hogs in the same way; turn them a loose and they will shift for themselves; and they tell me in some sections, where acorns have dropped, they live on "mast," and I am informed that they frequently get so fat they can hardly waddle, on this fodder furnished by Providence for them. Some of the farmers tell me they give their hogs a feed of corn at night, but a great many tell me they don't feed them from one year's end to another.

Mr. Roberts told me that fruit grows very nicely here, peaches, pears and Scuppernon grapes. He tells me that from one root, the first year's picking, he got thirty-five gallons of wine, which he can readily sell at \$1.50 per gallon. His labor and sugar cost him about \$30.00 to make 100 gallons of wine. He said from one arbor, ten feet square, he picked seven and one half bushels of grapes. He said he stood on a barrel-head and just picked around him where he could reach by standing on the barrel-head, and picked a bushel of grapes without moving from it. He said the strawberry crop was a good one, notwithstanding the past winter was the severest one ever known here, and the strawberry-vines were frozen to the ground, they started up and grew again without replanting.

I found all the old farmers that I talked with were well off, had good farms, all paid for, and many of them had money in the bank. Young men who had recently started out were well-to-do, and in a fair way to make money; and all this had been done in spite of the fact that they had no railroad facilities here. They now seem to be jubilant over the idea that they can get their produce readily to the market.

I told Mr. Roberts that I could not afford to recommend this country to my farming friends in the North, if they were liable to get into trouble by coming here and not be able to make a living. He assured me

that any man capable of doing a reasonable amount of work could make a good living from the start here. He said that farmers here seldom worked more than six months in the year, and all were doing well.

I to-day had a conversation with a very intelligent young farmer by the name of W. L. Taylor. I asked him what the reason was that agriculture had been a comparative failure in this section of country for a number of years. He gave me a very lucid definition, which is, as I recollect it, about in this manner: He stated that the poorer classes were indolent, and it was an easy matter for them to make a living, and with very little labor; and in regard to clothing themselves, their wants were very simple; they had no energy nor apparently any desire to more than eke out an existence. They could do this and play over half the time. On the other hand, the intelligent classes were those who had been planters before the war, and after having lost their slaves, they conceived the idea of renting out their former slaves' portions of their farms and raising cotton "on shares." This gave the planter a good living without any labor. This state of affairs went along all right until the price of cotton dropped, and now the planter has been running along for a number of years with the low price of cotton, has used up all his ready means, and he has really nothing now to farm with.

I asked him if a northern man can come here with small means if it was possible for him to make a living from the start. He said that a northern man can come here in December, plant crops, and by the next May, or June at the farthest, he could have a crop of green corn, peas, beans, Irish potatoes, etc., enough to last him the year around. In addition to this he could have a variety of vegetables which he could use any day in the year.

This man tells me he has picked his vegetables every day in the year, whenever he needed them. He said there was a slight frost sometimes in November, but it did not hurt the crops any; another one usually comes in January, but this will not hurt the ordinary crops. It may be cold enough to blight the vegetables, but in such a case they can be planted immediately, and one will soon realize a crop of vegetables in this climate. If the strawberry crop is blighted, it will immediately start up from the roots, and berries will grow again in a short time.

He told me that on Christmas he had on his table egg-plant, green peas, cabbages, lettuce, radishes and beets. It would seem that a farmer from the North might, with small means, easily start to farming here, and after the first few months would be able to live on his crops. He said there was one trouble with northern men who came down here; that is, they expected to find an inferior race of beings down here,

and would not take advice from the southern farmers. As a matter of fact, the southern farmer is capable of giving advice, but so far as following this advice himself is concerned, as a rule he is too tired to do it. But the northern man, if he will accept this advice, offered in a kindly spirit, will make a sure success of farming here.

While riding along the C., T. & G., I observed a very fine herd of cattle and noticed they were in good condition. I asked a party on the train what they fed these cattle. He said they fed them nothing from one year's end to another; all they got was what they picked up in running wild here, and they certainly looked as well as many herds of cattle I have seen that were taken up nights and foddered. The party made the remark to me that this was certainly the "poor man's country," that they could turn their cattle and their hogs out and let them run in the woods and not feed them anything. They could raise a little corn, rice and sugar-cane, and occasionally make a trip to the Gulf to catch what fish they needed, salt them and bring them home. He said they could live this way by working about one week out of the month. It would seem, if this were true, that any northern farmer to come here could not only make a living, but could make some money for himself.

Very truly yours, C. G. Cox.

Facts Which Tell.

Mr. R. H. Edmonds, editor of the *Manufacturers' Record*, one of the leading papers of the South, in an admirable book issued from his pen, says:

"Recent census publications, although three years behind time, make it possible to compare the agricultural and manufacturing advance of the South from 1880 to 1890 with that of the country at large. The result is a remarkably favorable showing for the South. Starting in 1880 with total farm assets, which includes the value of farms, implements, etc., of \$2,314,000,000, the South made an advance by 1890 to \$3,182,000,000, a gain of 37 per cent. During the same period the increase in all other states and territories was 30 per cent."

In the annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture for 1893 there is mention of a series of forage experiments:

"As emphasizing the value of these experiments, and as indicative of the manner in which the South has taken up the cultivation of the best forage plants, the statement may be made that the census returns for 1880 show that in the five states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana in which these experiments have been conducted, the yield of hay was .86 ton per acre, as compared with an aver-

age of 1.14 tons for the whole United States. The report of the Division of Statistics for November, 1893, shows that during that season these five states had increased their yield to 1.66 tons per acre, while the average for the entire country was 1.32 tons."

The above facts, culled as they are from official data, show conclusively that the South is rapidly coming to the front as one of the great agricultural sections of this country. If we descend to the vernacular of the street and use the thread-worn quotation that "Figures will not lie," it would seem as if official data was very strongly in evidence in favor of the assertion that the South is now a great agricultural country.

Very much has been said by the papers of late throughout the whole country with reference to the tremendous damage caused by the frosts of last year to the orange industry of Florida.

A great majority of the people of this country have been led to believe that the portion of the state of Florida devoted to the raising of oranges was practically suitable for nothing else, while the fact is that the development of the orange industry, with its keen susceptibility to frost and cold, has been practically an injury rather than a benefit to that state.

As in the older days, the people of the South were wedded to the production of cotton, and this product was hailed as king all over the world, so Florida has been looked upon as capable of producing nothing but oranges and a good climate.

The kingship of cotton is one of the things of the past, and the dominant idea that Southern Florida could produce nothing but oranges will soon be counted in the same vocabulary.

The real facts are that the soil of Florida is capable of producing almost every kind of agricultural product in the most beneficial profusion, and that in Middle and Western Florida, which includes that portion lying south of Georgia, the soil is capable of holding its own with that of almost any other section of this country.

In fact, everything that can be produced in California and the far West with expensive irrigation can be produced as cheaply without irrigation upon land that costs one tenth as much in the state of Florida, and is located less than half the distance from the great markets of the country.

It is far from our purpose to say one word in derogation of the wonderful resources of the far West, but the plain fact and truth, as set forth in the above statements, and persons who are in search of all the advantages to be gained by good soil, good people, cheap land, comfortable homes, good schools, churches and climate, and nearness to the markets of the world, are bound to consult the logic of the facts related above.



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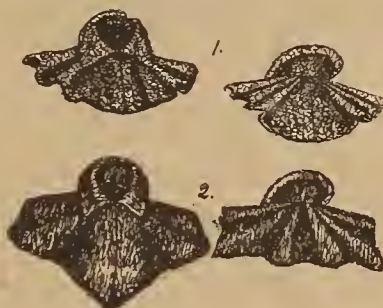
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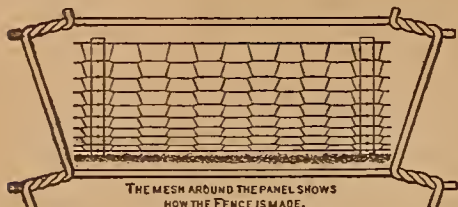
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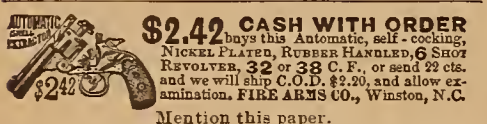
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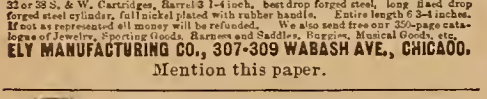
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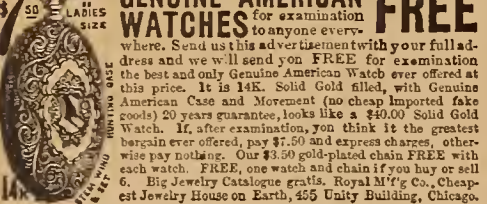
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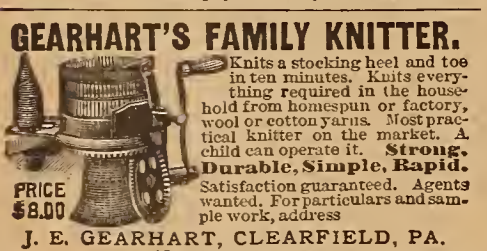
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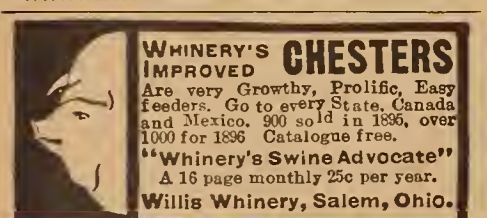
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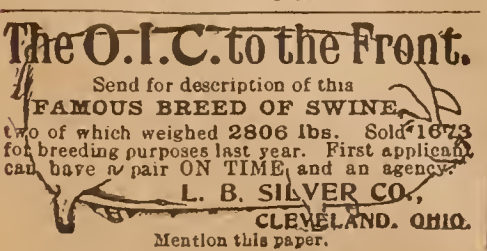
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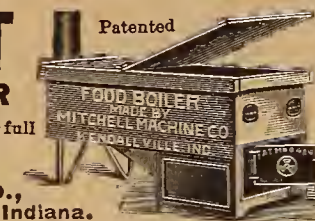
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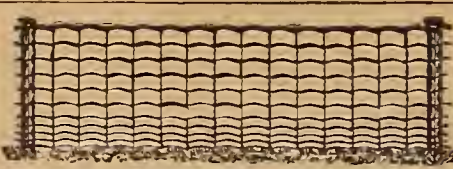
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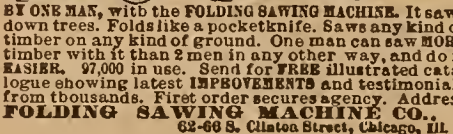


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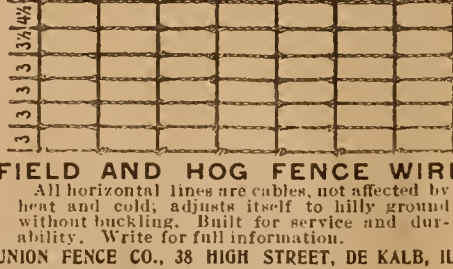
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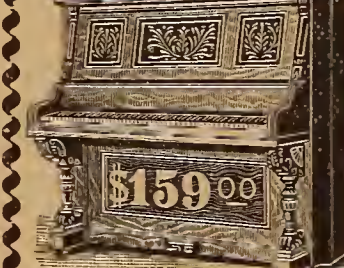
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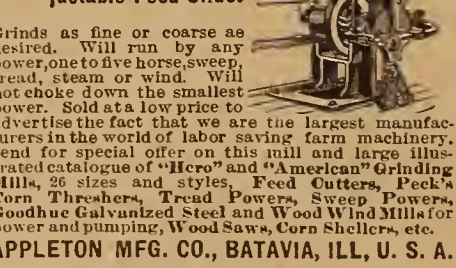
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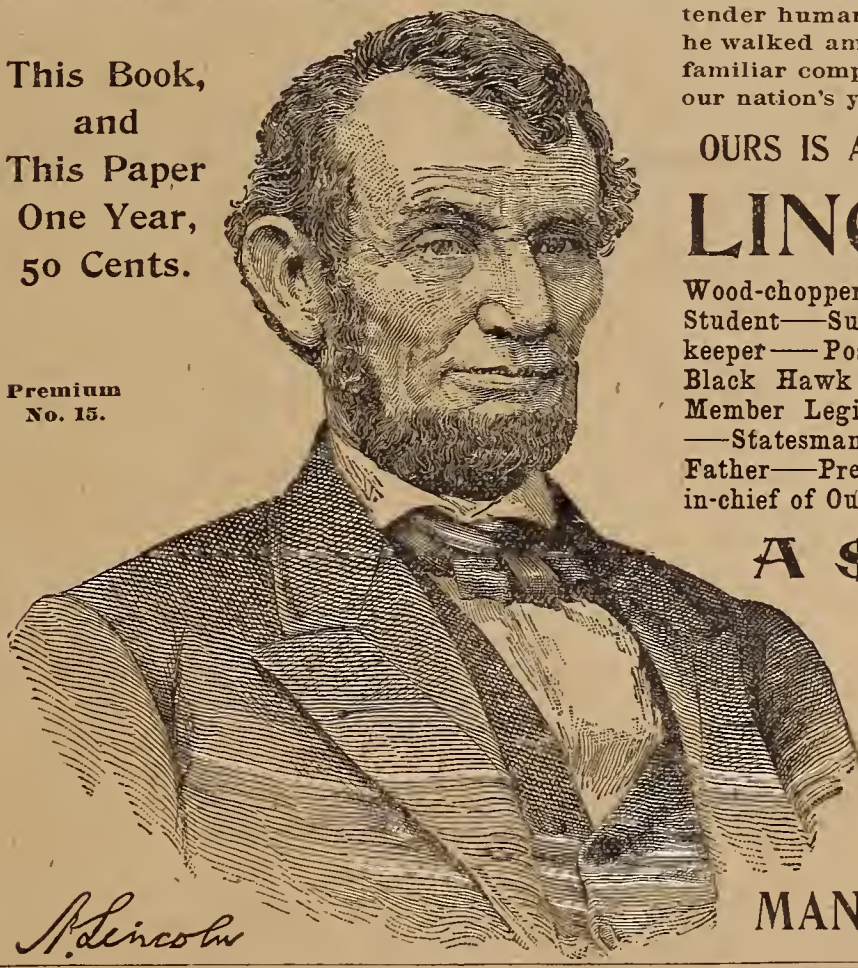
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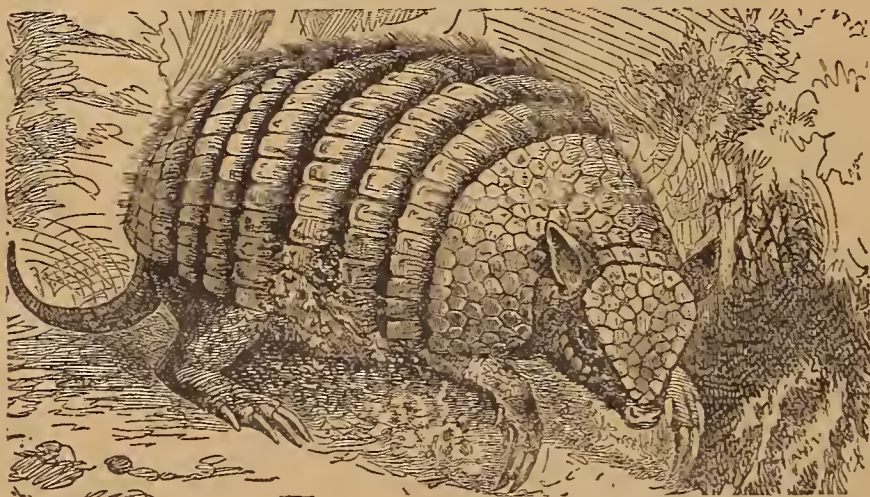
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In an article on railway rates, in the *Engineering Journal* for January, Mr. H. T. Newcomb, of the United States Department of Agriculture, says:

The progressive reduction in rates since the introduction of railways, which has been very great, is best illustrated by comparisons between the prices of various commodities during successive periods and the rates contemporaneously charged for their transportation. The average export price of flour was \$5.88 per barrel in 1880, and \$4.11 in 1894, and the average rate from St. Louis to New York 84 cents and 50 cents respectively during the same years. Comparing prices and rates, it appears that in 1880 freight charges absorbed the value of one barrel in every seven, but in 1894 only one in every 8.22.

The average charge for carrying a ton of freight one mile via thirteen of the most important railways in the United States during 1865 was 3.08 cents; 1870, 1.80; 1875, 1.36; 1880, 1.01; 1885, 0.83; 1890, 0.77; and 1893, 0.76 cents. These railways performed one third of the entire freight transportation during 1893, and from the figures given it appears that 76 cents would pay for as much transportation over their lines in 1893 as could have been obtained for \$3.08 twenty-eight years earlier.

The entire transportation performed by the railways of the United States during the twelve years ending June 30, 1894, was equivalent to moving 136,799,677,822 passengers and 807,935,382,838 tons of freight one mile. Had rates averaging as high as those of 1882 been collected upon this traffic, the railways would have earned \$2,629,043,459 more than they actually received.

THREE years ago Richard Olney had a reputation as an able lawyer, but his name was unknown in national politics. To-day his fame is international, and his countrymen hold him in the highest esteem for his true American spirit. As attorney-general he made an excellent record, achieved prominence, and earned promotion to the highest place in President Cleveland's cabinet. As secretary of state he has already distinguished himself, and will go to history ranking with some of his most distinguished predecessors, whose line of policy he has consistently followed. The now celebrated state paper, known as Olney's dispatch on the Venezuelan question, sets forth with admirable clearness and accuracy the position of the United States on the Monroe doctrine, as shown in the following extracts:

The Monroe doctrine rests upon facts and principles that are both intelligible and incontrovertible. That distance and three thousand miles of intervening ocean make any permanent political union between an European and an American state unnatural and inexpedient will hardly be denied. But physical and geographical considerations are the least of the objections to such a union. Europe, as Washington observed, has a set of primary

interests which are peculiar to herself. America is not interested in them, and ought not to be vexed or complicated with them. Each great European power, for instance, to-day maintains enormous armies and fleets in self-defense and for protection against any other European power or powers.

What is true of the material is no less true of what may be termed the moral interests involved. Those pertaining to Europe are peculiar to her, and are entirely diverse from those pertaining and peculiar to America. Europe, as a whole, is monarchical, and, with the single important exception of the republic of France, is committed to the monarchical principle. America, on the other hand, is devoted to the exactly opposite principle—to the idea that every people has an inalienable right of self-government, and in the United States of America has furnished to the world the most conspicuous and conclusive example and proof of the excellence of free institutions, whether from the standpoint of national greatness or of individual happiness. It cannot be necessary, however, to enlarge upon this phase of the subject. Whether moral or material interests be considered, it cannot but be universally conceded that those of Europe are irreconcilably diverse from those of America, and that any European control of the latter is necessarily both incongruous and injurious.

If, however, for the reasons stated, the forcible intrusion of European powers into American politics is to be deprecated—if, as it is to be deprecated, it should be resisted and prevented—such resistance and prevention must come from the United States. They would come from it, of course, were it made the point of attack. But, if they come at all, they must also come from it when any other American state is attacked, since only the United States has the strength adequate to the exigency. It is true, then, that the safety and welfare of the United States are so concerned with the maintenance of the independence of every American state as against any European power as to justify and require the interposition of the United States whenever that independence is endangered. The question can be candidly answered in but one way. The states of America, South as well as North, by geographical proximity, by natural sympathy, by similarity of governmental constitutions, are friends and allies, commercially and politically, of the United States. To allow the subjugation of any of them by any European power is, of course, to completely reverse the situation, and signifies the loss of all the advantages incident to their natural relations to us.

But that is not all. The people of the United States have a vital interest in the cause of self-government. They have secured the right for themselves and their posterity at the cost of infinite blood and treasure. They have realized and exemplified its beneficent operation by a career unexampled in point of national greatness or individual felicity. They believe it to be for the healing of all nations, and that civilization must either advance or retrograde accordingly as its

supremacy is either extended or curtailed. Imbued with these sentiments, the people of the United States might not possibly be wrought up to an active propaganda in favor of a cause so highly valued both for themselves and for mankind. But the age of crusades is passed, and they are content with such assertion as defense of the right of popular self-government as their own security and welfare demand. It is in that view more than in any other that they believe it not to be tolerated that the political control of an American state shall be forcibly assumed by any European power. The mischiefs apprehended from such a source are none the less real because not immediately imminent in any specific case, and are none the less to be guarded against because the combination of circumstances that will bring them upon us cannot be predicted.

The civilized states of Christendom deal with each other on substantially the same principles that regulate the conduct of individuals. The greater its enlightenment the more surely every state perceives that its permanent interests require it to be governed by the immutable principles of right and justice. Each, nevertheless, is only too liable to succumb to the temptations offered by seeming special opportunities for its own aggrandizement, and each would rashly imperil its own safety were it not to remember that for the regard and respect of other states it must be largely dependent upon its own strength and power. To-day the United States is practically sovereign on this continent, and its fiat is law upon the subjects to which it confines its interposition. Why? It is not because of the pure friendship or good will felt for it. It is not simply by reason of its high character as a civilized state, nor because wisdom and justice and equity are the inviolable characteristics of the dealings of the United States. It is because, in addition to all other grounds, its infinite resources, combined with its isolated position, render it master of the situation and practically invulnerable as against any or all other powers. All the advantages of this superiority are at once imperiled if the principle be admitted that European powers may convert American states into colonies or provinces of their own. The principle would be eagerly availed of, and every power doing so would immediately acquire a base of military operations against us.

What one power was permitted to do could not be denied to another, and it would not be inconceivable that the struggle now going on for the acquisition of Africa might be transferred to South America. If it were, the weaker countries would unquestionably be soon absorbed, while the ultimate result might be the partition of all South America between the various European powers. The disastrous consequences to the United States of such a condition of things are obvious. The loss of prestige, of authority and of weight in the councils of the family of nations would be among the least of them. Our only real rivals in peace as well as enemies in war would be found located at our very doors. Thus far in our history we have been spared the burdens and evils of immense standing armies and all the other accessories of huge warlike establishments, and the exemption has largely contributed to our national greatness and wealth as well as the happiness of every citizen. But with the powers of Europe permanently encamped on American soil, the ideal conditions we have thus far enjoyed cannot be expected to continue. We, too, must be armed to the teeth; we, too, must convert the flower of our male population into soldiers and sailors, and by withdrawing them from the various pursuits of peaceful industry, we, too, must practically annihilate a large share of the productive energy of the nation. How a greater calamity than this could overtake us it is difficult to see.



RICHARD OLNEY.

CONGRESS acted with unusual promptness on President Cleveland's special message, and passed unanimously a resolution providing for a commission to determine by a careful and judicial inquiry what is the true boundary line between Venezuela and British Guiana. On New-Year's day the president announced the appointment of the commission, as follows: David J. Brewer, justice of the United States Supreme Court; Richard H. Alvey, chief justice of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; Daniel C. Gilman, president of Johns Hopkins University; Andrew D. White, formerly minister to Germany and minister to Russia; and Frederick R. Coudert, a leading counsel of the United States on the Bering sea commission. The commissioners are men of the highest character and ability, who will command confidence at home and respect abroad. They are charged with a duty of the highest importance, and upon their finding rest momentous consequences. Their countrymen trust the Venezuelan question to them in the sincere hope that their work will make for peace with honor and the triumph of arbitration, but firm in the determination to stand by the right, even if it involve war.

IN an article on the following page is noted the fall in value of farm lands in Ohio. Eastern producers of staple crops have suffered severely from the competition of the new, fertile agricultural regions of the West opened up by a marvelous extension of railways. The fall in value of eastern and the rise in value of western farm lands is due largely to the great reduction of transportation rates. But few appreciate the great reduction in freight rates during the last quarter of a century.

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Ohio as a Dairy State. I wish to say a few words to the business men of Columbus, and through them to the merchants and manufacturers of Ohio, on the present condition of the farmers of this state. People engaged in farming are estimated to be about one half the population of the country. They form a large part of the body of consumers. They work with tools and implements which are constantly in need of renewal and repair. When they have money to spend, their custom forms a large part of the income of those who make and those who sell articles of necessity, convenience and luxury. When they are poor and have no money, except to pay taxes, there is hardly a merchant, a manufacturer or a mechanic whose income is not reduced by the loss of the farmer's custom. It is therefore wise for business men whose prosperity depends largely on the prosperity of farmers to consider what they can do, and do all they can to make farmers prosperous.

Argument is not needed to show that for years the farmers of Ohio have been growing poor; proof is on every hand. I think it was Governor Foraker who said in one of his messages to the legislature that since the census of 1880 farm lands in Ohio had fallen nearly fifty per cent in value. Ohio farms are cheaper because they are not wanted. They are not wanted because money is not being made out of them. Forty years ago farms in the eastern states began to depreciate because they could not compete with the cheap agricultural products which then began to multiply in the broad, rich fields of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and other western states. Within the period of these forty years, emigrants have settled upon the boundless prairies of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and in the distant territories. There the rich soil yields grain year after year without being fertilized; there vast herds of cattle, droves of horses and flocks of sheep graze on nutritious grasses, and are ready for market at less than half the cost which is needed to raise them in the middle states. Transcontinental railways have been built to these favored regions, no matter how remote, and thus farmers of the distant

West can undersell farmers of the middle states in the large cities on the Atlantic coast, and in the crowded markets of Europe.

What source of income remains to these middle-state farmers? They cannot produce grain at a profit; they cannot make money by fattening cattle; the market for such horses as they breed is lessened by more than one half, and the sheep industry is disappearing at a rate that begins to excite national concern. Large slaughtering-houses at Chicago, Omaha and Kansas City have closed the doors of smaller ones in every city and town, and the local butcher can no longer afford to pay the farmer what it costs to produce fat cattle in the middle and eastern states. Finally, oleomargarine is accepted by an increasing number of people as a substitute for dairy butter.

The gravity of the situation is increased by the fact that the causes which have produced this decline in our agricultural interests are in active operation, and will continue in baleful force as far as the eye of the present generation can reach, for there is still virgin soil in the great West; other railroads will be built to it. South America, Australia, India, and even Africa, are making rapid strides in scientific agriculture, in the breeding and packing and refrigerating of dressed meats, while the multiplication of steam-vessels on the ocean insures cheap transportation of the products of these distant lands to the dense population of Europe. Thus, the blight which attacked New England farms forty years ago has spread to the middle and western states, and the area of ruined agriculture has extended from the seaboard nearly to the Mississippi river.

The time is at hand, therefore, when farmers in Ohio must realize that the world is leaving them behind, and if they would escape financial ruin, they must think, decide and act otherwise than they have heretofore done. There still remain a few sources of income which are not only available, but even most hopeful, by reason of the geographical position of the state, and chief among them I reckon the dairy interest. Cities to the east of Ohio are growing marvelously in population. Wise men predict that the future seat of empire in the production of iron and steel in America will be within the triangle at whose points are the cities of Cleveland, Pittsburg and Buffalo. The best market for choice farm products is where the swarming population earns large wages in the heat and glare of furnaces and mills. Why do not the farmers of Ohio seize upon this opportunity and supply that market with the best butter and cheese that America can produce? It is a reproach to them that her grocers go to eastern New York to buy cheese. It is a greater reproach to them that the wide-awake farmers of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota ship annually across the state of Ohio to eastern cities tens of thousands of tons of butter, a large part of which Ohio could put into market if she would, but which she does not do, simply because her farmers are asleep while her western neighbors are wide awake.

How shall we arouse this torpid mass of Ohio agricultural stupidity and compel Ohio farmers to save themselves from debt and the sheriff? Business men in towns and cities must take the task in hand and improve the farmers' condition, in order that one half the people of the state may become prosperous, and thereby a broader foundation be laid for the wealth of towns and cities. There is no agency more potent to do this work than the Ohio State University. That institution is now happily organized to render great service to the farmers of the state. But let us see to it that at the coming session of the legislature a fair appropriation is secured to equip the university with every needed appliance to qualify it for the highest development of the dairy interest.—From an address of the Hon. J. T. Brooks, general counsel of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, to the business men of Columbus, at a dinner given to President Canfield, of the Ohio State University, at the Columbus Club, November 25, 1895.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Feeding

To the great mass of farmers, the so-called chemistry of stock feeding is a closed book; they simply feed whatever they happen to have on hand for the purpose, and that is all there is about it. Perhaps they have been taught, by precept or experience, that corn is fattening, that wheat and buckwheat make hens lay, and that straw dries up the cows, etc. But when it comes to the mixing up of various foods and grains to make a so-called "balanced" ration for the purposes of milk production, or of fattening, or of simple growth, etc., the average feeder is in the dark. Apparently, the experiment stations have tried to spread light on the subject; at least, they have published a good many bulletins treating on stock feeding. But these bulletins have been filled with (usually unexplained) terms like "albuminoids," "carbohydrates" and "nitrogen-free extract," "digestive co-efficient," "nutritive ratio," "nutrients," etc., that the majority of us have been unable to get a clear insight into the matter.

It does not seem to me that there is anything very complicated or hard to understand about the principles of feeding, in themselves; it is only the terms which have proved obstacles in our path. If bulletin writers would leave out a large proportion of the tables showing details of their work by which they arrived at their conclusions, and could use plain or generally understood terms (if only in their summaries), the great majority of readers might be enabled to draw much-needed lessons from these particular bulletins. Feeding animals is much like feeding crops. We can manure for an increase of leaf and stalk; we can manure for the increase of grain, or seed generally, without much increase of straw or wood; we can manure for wood growth, and fruit-buds, etc. In the same way we can feed for the increase of flesh or of fat, milk, eggs, etc. To feed indiscriminately is just as much a hit-or-miss (generally miss) method as to apply manures haphazard. In short, when we feed animals we should know exactly what we are doing, and why we give one ration and not another. In order to be able to feed right, and to obtain the desired results at the least cost, it is necessary for us to understand the first principles of feeding.

Glossary of

Fodder Terms.

The Massachusetts experiment station, evidently recognizing the farmers' needs in this connection, has just issued a bulletin containing "a partial glossary of fodder terms." Undoubtedly, this will be of some aid to at least the more studiously and thoughtfully inclined among the farmers. As a sample, I will quote the definition given of the much-used term "albuminoids." "Albuminoids are distinct groups of nitrogen containing substances found in all plants and seeds. Their most common forms are seen in the gluten of the grain, albumen (white) of the egg and curd of the milk. They appear in large quantities in seeds and by-products derived from them, such as cotton, linseed, gluten and bean meals. The elementary composition of these bodies is carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus. As a food they serve as the exclusive source of production of flesh, muscle, ligaments, tendons, hide, etc., and of repair of bodily wastes. Albuminoids are also a source of energy, and were formerly considered a source of fat, but this is now doubted."

In the tables which show the composition of feeding stuffs, the term "protein" usually appears in place of "albuminoids." It means all the nitrogen-containing substances present in ordinary agricultural products, but it is much the same thing as albuminoids, and the use of the two terms can only serve to multiply the already existing confusion in the minds of ordinary people. I think I would prefer to drop these terms, in popular treatises, altogether, and use in their place the easily understood "flesh formers." In writing for farmers, I would also drop the terms "carbohydrates" and "nitrogen-free extract," and in their places use the common term "heat and fat formers." The crude fat occurring in feed stuffs (neutral fats, free fatty acids, vegetable wax, resin, etc.) is sometimes called ether extract, because soluble in ether. It produces heat and

energy for bodily warmth, and force to run the mechanism, serves to prevent undue waste of "flesh formers," and when in excess, is transformed into animal fat. The crude fat has two and one half times as much energy as the substances which I have called "heat and fat formers" (carbohydrates).

Now, we may take any of the tables as we find them in the bulletins on "Feeding," as published by our various stations (for instance, in Bulletin No. 60 of the Ohio experiment station, treating on feeding for beef), and make the whole matter plain by substituting our common terms, "water, ash, flesh formers, fiber, heat and fat formers, fat," for "water, ash, protein, nitrogen-free extract, fat." If I had the space at my disposal, I would gladly work out such a table, giving composition of the materials more commonly used for feeding. But it seems that everyone interested in these things can get a bulletin containing such tables from the station of his own state. In looking them over, he will find what little flesh-forming substance there is in straw (3.4 per cent in wheat straw against 43.4 per cent of heat and fat forming substance and 1.3 per cent of fat), and how rich some other substances are in these flesh formers. Wheat bran, for instance, has about 15 per cent; oat feed, 16 per cent; soja-bean, 34 per cent; pea-meal, 20.2 per cent; gluten-meal, nearly 30 per cent; cotton-seed meal, 42.3 per cent; linseed-meal, 32.9 per cent, etc.

Nutritive Ratio. The next question is, in what proportions are these substances needed for the various animals and the various purposes? A German experimenter (Emil Wolff) has compiled a table of feeding standards, now generally accepted as approximately correct by American feeders. This table gives the proportions of flesh formers to heat and fat formers (fat included) as follows:

For oxen moderately worked, 1 to 7.5; for oxen heavily worked, 1 to 6; for horses moderately worked, 1 to 7; for horses heavily worked, 1 to 5.5; for milk cows, 1 to 5.4; for fattening steers, 1 to 6 (average); for fattening sheep, 1 to 5 (average); for fattening swine, 1 to 6 (average); for oxen at rest in the stall, 1 to 12. This proportion is usually called the "nutritive ratio," a term which is frequently met with in the bulletins. A simple rule of finding this nutritive ratio in any of the feed stuffs or combination of feed stuffs is to multiply the sum of the fat constituents by $2\frac{1}{4}$ (in order to get the equivalent of the other heat and fat formers), add this to the sum of the heat and fat formers (carbohydrates), and then divide by the figure representing the sum of the flesh formers. Thus, one ton of oat straw has 80 pounds of flesh former, 848 pounds of heat and fat former and 46 pounds of fat. Its nutritive ratio is approximately as follows: $46 \times 2\frac{1}{4} = 103\frac{1}{2}$ plus 848 = 951 $\frac{1}{2}$; this divided by 80 gives us very nearly 12, and therefore a nutritive ratio of about 1 to 12. Oat straw would be a good and well-balanced ration for oxen at rest in the stall, if there were not grave doubts that they are able to eat and digest all they would need of it. But if we were to feed in combination with the ton of oat straw 500 pounds of wheat bran (77 pounds flesh former, 269.5 pounds heat and fat former and 20 pounds of fat) and 200 pounds of linseed-meal (65.8 pounds, 71 pounds and 7.9 pounds respectively), we have in this combination about 223 pounds of flesh former, 1,188 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of heat and fat formers and 74 pounds of fat, the last-named being equivalent to 166 pounds of the other heat and fat formers. Consequently, we have a nutritive ratio of 223 to 1,188 $\frac{1}{2}$ plus 166, or almost 1 to 6, which is a proper ratio for fattening steers or hard-worked oxen. Prof. E. W. Stewart recommended the following proportions; namely, 25 pounds oat straw, 5 pounds wheat bran, 4 pounds linseed-meal as a daily fattening ration for 1,000 pounds live weight of the animal. I think the proportion of linseed-meal is a trifle too high. The proportions which I have given in the instance cited as an example would give about 20 pounds of oat straw, 5 pounds of wheat bran and 2 pounds of linseed-meal as a daily allowance for an animal weighing 800 pounds. And, incidentally, I will remark that this combination of foods, at present prices, will be about as cheap a one as we can hope to find. Hay is very dear. Oat straw can usually be had at a reasonably low figure. We buy wheat bran at \$13 per ton and linseed-meal at \$18 to \$20. The ration will cost less than twelve cents a day.

T. GREINER.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

RESOLUTIONS.—New-Year's day is supposed to be the proper time for new resolutions. I am not a strong believer in the value of new resolutions that are left for a certain time of the year. There usually is some other time of the year when they are broken. Resolutions should be the outgrowth of convictions that are strong enough to compel the resolutions as soon as the convictions force themselves upon us. But the beginning of a new year should be as good a time as any to start aright, and in one's business affairs it is an especially good time. At this time the farmer has harvested the crops, and should know how much better or worse off financially he is than he was a twelvemonth before. He is planning for the new year, and is trying to see some way of making his yearly income greater. He is getting ready for another chance to improve his condition. At this time I would like to recommend two helps that I have tried and like exceedingly. One is the keeping of farm-books that show the amount and source of all the income and the outgo. The other is strict cash buying.

FARM BOOKKEEPING.—I know the objections usually urged against the keeping of books. "It is too much bother," says one. "I know at the end of the year whether I have made a cent or not," says another. "It doesn't put a cent in a man's pocket," says a third. My friends, you are mistaken. I may not be able to convince you thoroughly, but if you will try a simple system of farm accounts, you will find that they are not much bother, that they will show you where you stand better than you know without them, and that they save money in your pocket. In the first place, do not undertake a too complicated system. Make a fair cash inventory of all you own. Place the value of the farm and buildings; of the stock not intended for market, such as the farm-horses, the milk cows, the hogs for home use, poultry, etc.; of the feed they will consume, and of the farm implements—all this on one page. You want it only for occasional reference. Another year, if you reduce or increase the capital, you will make the proper changes in amount. Then inventory all you have that you intend to convert into cash at some future time; with it place the amount of cash on hand and all credits, less all debts. This inventory should be placed on another page.

Then keep an exact account of all the money paid out—the date, the purpose for which paid and the amount. This will serve to show "where all the money goes"—that often puzzling question in many families. At the end of the year one knows how much cash has been required to run him, and can see whether there is any chance for further economy, if it seems best. In another part of the book—or better still, in another account-book—set down every item of income, when received, from what source and the amount. When farm products are taken to the store in exchange for goods, put down the cash value of the products as income, and the price of the goods as expense. With this data you can tell just where you stand at the end of the year, and why you stand there. The living gotten from the farm is reasonably constant in amount, and does not enter into calculations unless you are wanting to figure out the per cent your investment is paying you. For practical use, the figures of cash income and outgo, including products traded at stores, are the ones of value. You have an actual record, and while carrying a certain amount of farming equipment necessary to your business, can base your estimates for another year on actual figures in the past. Many farmers keep a far more complete set of books, keeping accounts with separate fields and with all crops. I like the plan, but it is too complicated for many. If they properly itemize their expenses, stating the object, they can figure out the cost of crops from the records kept as I have suggested, and a record of their own work.

BUYING ON CREDIT.—The man who buys his supplies on credit loses money through the method, if he ever pays his bills.

There is no doubt about this. The merchant marks his goods at a price he can afford to take from those who do not pay for six months or a year. More than this, the price is made high enough to cover the losses sustained from worthless accounts. Some merchants deny this, but the fair ones admit its truth. Were it not so, the merchant must lose money, as bad accounts are a necessary part of the credit system. The price of goods must be high enough to cover all losses, the expense of bookkeeping, the dunning of customers, and still leave a merchant a fair sum for doing the business. The man who buys on credit helps to pay the bills of his neighbor who will not pay. Instead of getting the use of the merchant's money for nothing for a year, he is really paying a per cent so large that it is ruinous in many cases.

THE CASH BUYER.—The man who always pays cash can dictate prices within reasonable bounds. The merchant will not let him leave his store, if the price offered affords any margin of profit. The merchant sees that there is no risk or trouble, that he gets back the money invested and some profit, and gladly makes sale at a price below what he could afford to make to the man who buys on credit; the cash buyer pays a fair price for what he gets, but does not help pay the worthless accounts of others; the buyer on credit has to carry the whole load. Many farmers are somewhat in debt, and they say they must buy on credit. They are the ones who should not do so, even if others do. It is far better to go to a neighbor, state the facts, and borrow the sum of money needed to put affairs on a cash basis; the saving will amount to several times the interest paid on the note. Then, too, there is gain in other ways. One's credit grows better when little used, and there is escape from the worry of being dunned for little accounts. When it is understood that a man always pays cash for what he buys, his opportunity to get what he wants increases. Those needing cash are quick to give him the refusal of what they have to sell. The man who drops the credit plan, borrows the needed money at a fair rate of interest, if he has not capital of his own, and then keeps accurate account of the expenditure of every dollar of it, improves his chance of success.

WHOLESALE BUYING.—Wholesale buying is closely connected with cash buying. There are many articles in daily demand that do not lose in value by age. The man who buys only a trifling quantity at a time will be surprised at the saving he may make by buying a quantity. If he has the money in his pocket, he can invest it in needed supplies in such quantity that the saving in price will pay him a big interest upon the investment. A few merchants are not quick to meet the wholesale buyer half way, but the most are glad to do so. No jehing is necessary in buying. Ask the merchant for best cash prices by the quantity, and compare those with others; then buy where it seems best. In the beginning of the year 1896, tens of thousands should help incomes out by a system of bookkeeping and by the adoption of the plan of strict cash buying. DAVID.

DISPOSAL OF SKIM-MILK.

How to get the most profit from the cow is the question of interest to cow owners. A cent or two per pound saved in the cost of butter is equivalent to the price enhanced that amount at the market end. Tending to this economy in production is an economical disposal of the skim-milk. How can it be used to get the most money out of it?

There are two ways. A profitable use of part of the skim-milk is to feed it to good heifer calves. No wise dairyman will depend wholly upon purchasing cows wherever he can pick them up to keep his dairy herd up to the highest degree of profitable production. With a herd of twenty-five cows, at least five of the likeliest heifer calves should be raised yearly. And why? No herd on the average dairy farm running that number of cows is of such high excellence but there are some animals that fail to come up in productive capacity to a profitable standard. Subjected to the scrutiny of the Babcock test, these least profitable cows should be discarded, and heifers raised from the best cows fill their places.

The farm running that number of cows should have upon it a sire bred in the best dairy lines, thoroughbred and of the butter type. With such a sire and right breeding, the herd can be made to steadily improve. The strongest ally to breeding is good care and feeding. This is emphatically true in rearing cows for the dairy. The chances are that the high-bred calf from the intensely bred butter-cow, at birth taught to drink and fed rations containing less fat than the whole milk from its mother, will, in all essential particulars, equal, if not excel, one reared on whole milk. So it will be profitable to feed a part of the skim-milk to these high-grade heifer calves.

Warm the milk to blood-heat, or a little higher in cold weather—be careful not to scald it—add a small quantity of oatmeal and middlings, and good calves are cheaply raised, and the skim-milk made to turn at least thirty cents per hundred pounds.

Another profitable use to make of the skim-milk is to feed it to pigs. I know there is not much profit in pork at present prices, but if any profit is to be made out of the hog, it is in feeding young pigs.

There are some things that have been proved within the last few years. One of these is the profitable feeding of skim-milk to young pigs. Pigs can be bought for from \$4 to \$4.50 per hundred pounds, live weight. Feed corn-meal and shorts with this milk. Start in with mixing a little bran with it, and later, the last half of the period of feeding—finishing up at seven to ten months of age—with corn-meal alone in the milk.

The main thing is to keep the pigs growing from the start. Skim-milk is almost a pure albuminoid—muscle and bone producing. Shorts are quite carbonaceous. This food given for forty or fifty days will set a pig on his feet, healthy and in good growing condition.

Now, a ration of one hundred pounds of skim-milk, twenty-five pounds of corn-meal and about the same quantity of middlings is an extremely stimulating, growing food. For the last month of the feeding, corn-meal fed wholly with the milk will finish up the fattening process in good form.

Such pigs will grow right along from the first, and at the ages named will weigh from 200 to 300 pounds, and give a return of from twenty-five to forty cents per hundred for the milk.

To make the most out of skim-milk in swine feeding, it must be fed to young pigs. There is no profit in feeding that or anything else to old hogs. A pig six months to a year old makes the most rapid growth, and by feeding in this way there is a profit all around—a small profit it may be at present prices of pork, but it helps us dispose of this by-product of the dairy to some advantage. L. F. ABBOTT.

PICKED POINTS.

If a team pulls unevenly, the trouble may be remedied by unhitching the inside traces and crossing them so as to have each horse attached to the same end of each swingletree.

Contributors to the agricultural department of a prominent New York City journal have several times lately condemned the working of the wheeled road-scraper in very severe terms. One terms it "the great mud-maker." He seems to deplore the ease with which these machines are worked, for the road-maker can now ride, and not even soil a clean "biled shirt." All of these writers say these machines simply pile up the dirt in the center of the road, to become a mass of mud upon the first good rainfall, and all of them prefer the old hand-scraper. It cannot be possible that either of them has ever used the new machine. It is the hand-scraper that "piles up the dirt" and leaves the track rough. The wheel-scraper leaves what earth it moves either thick or thin, as may be desired, and the surface smooth, with hard, smooth walks at the sides of the track for pedestrians or bicyclers, and the hand-

scraper leaves all rough. The present good roads in my country are mainly due to the new machine. Those who denounce wheel-scrappers must have "ruts" in their practices as well as in their road, and "wheels in their heads."

How much milk do cows average per year? There are no definite statistics in this country taken from herds for a series of years. The herd of eighty-three cows belonging to the Duke of Westminster averaged, for five successive years, 2,736 quarts per cow. Estimating that American cows give one third less—which is probably near the truth—the yield is 1,824 quarts. Allowing the average cost of a year's keep, average price of milk and butter, average amount of milk to make a pound of butter, and counting labor, interest and deterioration, one can estimate very closely whether he had better sell milk or make butter, or whether, indeed, he had better keep a commercial dairy at all.

It is reported that at the last session of the legislature of Florida, a charter was granted to a company to dredge the submerged muck in the St. John's river, and prepare it for agricultural purposes. The statement is made that dried and pulverized it is in available form to supply the vegetable mold needed in most soils. The promoters of the enterprise expect to find a ready market for the St. John's river mud among farmers, and they hope to get rich by the sale of their new fertilizer. At this distance, it looks as though cunning steamboat men want to get the river dredged gratuitously, and had made persons believe there is a fortune in mud. Dried mud or muck is considered of good quality if it possesses two per cent of nitrogen, while it is almost entirely lacking in potash and phosphoric acid. How much will it cost to dredge, dry, weather and spread a ton of muck on an acre of soil? Crimson clover grows finely in Florida. Seed to sow to an acre in the corn or cotton would cost a dollar, and there would be a good crop of clover to turn down after the corn or cotton is off. Which would be worth the more for its humus and fertilizing properties, the muck or the clover? This commercial-mud company must be banking on the farmers' ignorance, its own, or both.

To go South, young man, is as much discussed in the papers now as to go West was years ago. In addition to cheap lands there, and the delightful climate, there are better general opportunities for business than the once new West ever afforded. It is an old, settled country, and railroads traverse nearly every section. There is little but pure Americanism in the South. The inflow of foreigners into the United States, including a good sprinkling of criminals, paupers, socialists and anarchists, has settled in the North and West, scarcely any of it turning a foot southward; hence, social conditions of the South have not been disturbed by strikes and anarchical demonstrations as in the North and West; but the southern people have pursued the even tenor of their way. Southern lands are held in too large bodies; and as, under present conditions of agriculture, a more concentrated and intensive system of farming must be pursued, the southern people are desirous of dividing up their land holdings, and they extend a cordial invitation to sturdy farmers of the North and West to come and teach them how to grow something besides cotton. All other branches of business will follow closely in the wake of an accelerated agriculture. Lands there are appreciating in value now. GALEN WILSON.

Always

Taking cold, is a common complaint. It is due to impure and deficient blood. The remedy is found in pure, rich blood.

"I am not very strong, and sometimes need a tonic to help me battle against sickness. I find that two or three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla is just what I need." MISS JANIE HIGGINS, 55 Beaufain St., Charleston, S. C.

Hood's

Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. \$1; 6 for \$5.

Hood's Pills easy to buy easy to take easy to operate. 25c.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

THE EARLY LEADER TOMATO.—Some of our friends have asked me where they can get seed of the Early Leader (Wright's Early Leader) tomato, which I mentioned in an earlier issue of FARM AND FIRESIDE. I see that the seed firm of James Vick's Sons, of Rochester, now advertises and booms as an extra early tomato the "Vick's Early Leader." From the description and illustration, I think this is the same variety which I tested last season. No doubt it is an early variety—earlier, in fact, than any other tomato I know of—and people who value this feature above all others, especially above size, and above the smoothness and beauty of some of our later ones, will find in the "Early Leader" just what they want.

I don't see, however, why it was necessary to change the name to *Vick's Early Leader*. A Mr. Farmer, of this state (N. Y.), last year catalogued it as "Wright's Early Leader," and if the name of the first introducer belongs to it, it should be "Farmer's Early Leader." But evidently a Mr. Wright was the originator or original discoverer, and if there is to be any prefix, "Wright's Early Leader" would be right. Yet, why *three* words for a name, when one usually is sufficient, and two are more than enough? "Wright" tomato would be all right. "Leader" would not lead to fault-finding; but possibly the descriptive prefix "Early" would have some sense, and so we might make it either "Early Wright" or "Early Leader," and let it go at that. But seedsmen seem to be bound to lead us into confusion by making their own name a part of the names of vegetable novelties.

NEW METHOD IN POTATO GROWING.—A friend in the far South calls my attention to a new method of raising potatoes, which, according to a report in the *Horticultural Gleaner*, is practised by a Mr. Ford, of Texas. To tell the truth, I hardly know what to think of this new plan. Mr. Ford manures heavily with cotton-seed and cow manure, and also irrigates a little, and claims to be able to raise six crops in a year, and heavy yields in each crop. "The secret of my potato growing," he says, "is that I grow the potatoes before I plant them, and dig the potatoes I plant." A crop is made in from four to six weeks. Triumph, the great early potato for the South, is his first choice; Early Rose is twenty days later. The new scheme is as follows: The seed-potatoes are put in old barrels or small boxes, and stored in the "sprouting-room." This is done about six weeks before time for planting them out in the open ground. The "sprouting-room" is kept warm, if necessary, by means of a stove or oven. The potatoes soon begin to sprout, and in from four to six weeks the young potatoes will be the size of peas, or of the right size for planting. The barrels or boxes are then knocked to pieces, and then contain a mass of roots and sprouts and myriads of little new potatoes. The numerous roots hold the whole mass together. This seed is carted to the field, and in planting, a handful of the mass is broken off and dropped in the furrow, and another handful eighteen inches from the first, etc. There should be not more than forty nor less than twenty of these little potatoes to the handful planted in each place. If there is enough rain, Mr. Ford says every one of them will make a fine, large potato. But it takes manure to grow them, and after rains he puts on liquid manure in addition to the manure already in the soil. The manuring governs the yield.

It will not be necessary to refer here to other details of this novel plan. That potatoes can be started under glass and successfully transplanted to the open ground, even after they have already produced little sets, I have repeatedly demonstrated in my own practice, and it may be possible to grow extra early potatoes in a manner somewhat on this plan. At any rate, I shall make an earnest attempt to do it the coming season. T. GREINER.

Wood ashes is a fertilizer particularly adapted to dry weather. In dry seasons no fertilizer produces better results on strawberries or potatoes, and they have no bad effect should the season be wet.

"WOMAN'S LIFE CIRCLE."

A PUZZLE THAT LOOKS SIMPLE, BUT WHO CAN DO IT?—NOT ONE IN A MILLION.

Here is a puzzle. It looks simple. It seems simple. It is simple. Yet not one person in a million can solve it. They may have been taught how to do it, but the fact remains that they can't do it.

While at first blush this may seem of little or no consequence to either man or woman, the reader will presently see that this puzzle illustrates a principle that bears directly upon the life and happiness of every woman, and forms a controlling factor in every profession.

CAN YOU DO IT?

The puzzle must be solved with a piece of paper, a pencil, the human eye, the human hand, and nothing else. It is sim-

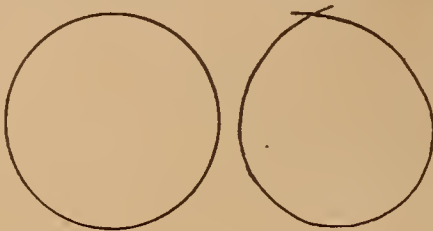


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

ply to make with one operation, and without lifting the pencil from the paper, circles like that shown in Figure 1. You may be able to make one such circle by accident, but if you think you can make twenty in a day, in a week, or even in a month, just try it, and get your friends to try it. The circles must not be like Figure 2, but like Figure 1. You will soon find that this is not merely a case of "know how," for everybody knows how. It is a case of "know how," combined with "never fail." Not one of five hundred of young men and women college graduates can do it. The one who can do it is

ONE AMONG MILLIONS.

He began just the same as everybody else did, by learning how to draw. But that's not the secret of his success; he made a specialty of drawing circles; he has been drawing them all his life, and practice makes perfect. Give any woman a bow and arrow, give a man a loaded revolver, and she or he may sometimes hit the target and possibly the center, but how many hundred times will they miss the mark? This frequent failure, not only in target practice, but in everything else, is due to the fact that not one person in a thousand makes a life specialty of one thing—the one thing he can do best—and keeps right on making a specialty of it until he becomes perfect.

A PARIS DRESSMAKER.

There is a woman dressmaker in Paris who for thirty years has been noted the world over. Not once in a hundred times does she fail to give a perfect fit. Yet this same woman made a silk night-shirt for her husband and—made a failure. It wasn't a case of not knowing how, for she had learned how to make clothes just as she had learned how to draw; yet, try as she would, she couldn't even make a night-shirt for her husband that would fit, any more than she could draw a circle that was perfect.

A GREAT LAWYER.

Daniel Webster, who was probably the greatest constitutional lawyer that ever lived, was once completely floored in a patent case by a lawyer who made a specialty of such cases. The "know how" is the proper point to start from, but it is the practice—the daily, hourly, constant practice—that makes perfect. The woman who has one night-shirt to make in thirty years cannot be an expert in night-shirts, any more than the lawyer who has one patent case in six months can be an expert in patent cases. The doctor who is called upon once a week, once a month, or, perhaps, once in six months, to treat this, that, or the other complicated disorder may succeed once in a great while, if nature comes to the rescue, but he will usually fail, notwithstanding the fact that he has studied medicine, just as the lawyer has studied law and the woman has studied dressmaking. The sum and substance of it all is that *practice makes perfect*.

EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

It is upon this theory, this principle, this practice, that the greatest and most successful health Institution in America is

founded. For nearly thirty years, experienced and skilled physicians, connected with this Institution, have made a specialty of curing the ailments and diseases peculiar to women. Where the ordinary practitioner treats one such case, the skilled specialists of this Institution treat tens of thousands; and what is regarded by the local doctor as a complicated case, one that puzzles his brain and baffles his skill, is as simple of treatment and sure of being cured in this Institution as is the drawing of a perfect circle to that one man in a million. This is another instance where practice makes perfect. It is a case where one man can do what millions of others cannot do, although they have learned how.

After having treated, year after year, many thousands of cases of woman's ailments, Dr. R. V. Pierce, Chief Consulting Physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute of Buffalo, N. Y., learned not only the perfect methods, but also the perfect medicines with which to cure such cases. These are scientifically combined and blended in his "Favorite Prescription." As

A POWERFUL, INVIGORATING TONIC,

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription imparts strength to the whole system and to the organs distinctly feminine in particular. For overworked, "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated teachers, milliners, dress-makers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," housekeepers, nursing mothers and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon, being unequalled as an appetizing cordial and invigorating tonic. As a

SOOTHING NERVINE,

"Favorite Prescription" is unequalled in subduing nervous excitability, irritability, nervous exhaustion, nervous prostration, neuralgia, hysteria, spasms, chorea, or St. Vitus's dance, and other distressing, nervous symptoms commonly attendant upon functional and organic disease of the generative organs of women. It induces refreshing sleep and relieves mental anxiety and despondency.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the only known medicine in the world that relieves parturition of its perils to both mother and child, and makes the

COMING OF BABY

Free from danger and almost wholly painless, while it so strengthens and prepares the mother's system for this trying ordeal as to greatly shorten labor and the period of confinement as well.

EXPERT ADVICE FREE.

If it happens that an exceedingly obstinate or complicated case is not promptly conquered by this standard remedy, Dr. Pierce himself and his trained staff of professional assistants can always be reached by letter, and he and his staff know, from their extensive practice, which has made them experts, just what missing link to supply.

Dr. Pierce and his staff of physicians hold themselves at all times ready to reply to letters from women afflicted with obstinate, complicated or long-neglected and so-called incurable ailments, and are always glad to offer, free of charge, advice and suggestions that will lead to relief and cure. Dr. Pierce can be reached by letter by addressing him as above. Where a local physician treats one case of woman's ailments, Dr. Pierce and his trained specialists treat many thousands, and a lifetime's practice in this particular field has made them experts to cure all such diseases. With them there is no experimenting; no physical patchwork and no promises given that cannot be fulfilled.

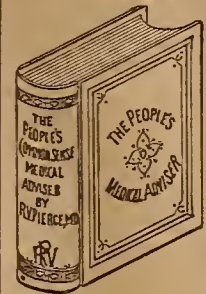
One reason why woman suffers in silence, agonies which would

MAKE A COWARD

Of the strongest man, is because her inborn modesty causes her to shrink from the ordeal of submitting to medical examination and the stereotyped "local treatment." When, finally, torture drives her to seek advice, she, unfortunately, only too often falls into hands that lack the rare ability of drawing that "perfect circle" upon which her peace of mind, her happiness and her life depend. Instead of the treatment that makes thousands of cures a certainty and failure almost an unheard-of accident, she receives that which makes failure a certainty and the cure a mere accident.

A GREAT BOOK FREE.

When Dr. Pierce published the first edition of his great work, *The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser*, he announced that after 680,000 copies had been sold at the regular price, \$1.50 per copy, the profit on which would repay him for the immense amount of labor and money expended in producing it, he would distribute



the next half million free. As this number of copies has already been sold, he is now giving away, absolutely free, 500,000 copies of this most complete, interesting and valuable common sense medical work ever published—the recipient only being required to mail to him, or the World's Dispensary Medical Association, of Buffalo, N. Y., of which he is President, this little

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 cover cost of mailing only, and the book will be sent post-paid. It is a veritable medical library, complete in one great volume. It contains over 1,000 pages and more than 300 illustrations. Several finely illustrated chapters are devoted to the careful consideration in plain language, of diseases peculiar to women and their successful home treatment without the aid of a physician and without having to submit to dreaded "examinations" and the stereotyped "local applications," so repulsive to the modestly sensitive woman. The *Free Edition* is precisely the same as that heretofore sold at \$1.50, except only that the books are bound in strong paper covers instead of cloth. If French cloth-covered, embossed and gold stamped covers are desired, send 10 cents extra—31 cents in all, to cover only the postage and the extra cost of that more durable and beautiful style of binding. Send now before all are given away.

HOW TO GROW TOBACCO-PLANTS.

Good seed is the first thing to be considered. This should be of the kinds known to be adapted to the special locality where it is to be grown. Seed should be procured from localities where they develop to the greatest perfection. The three most prominent places are Cuba, Sumatra, and Halifax county, in southern Virginia. In the latter locality, what is known as pedigree seed is produced. The raising of prime seed is a business of itself, and requires careful supervision, based on scientific principles. The buyer should base his purchase of a variety on the nature of the soil and the type of tobacco he wishes to grow. On the rich limestone soils north of the fortieth parallel, where seed-leaf for wrappers is mainly grown, the experienced grower would never undertake to grow the mild, sweet, substantial chewing and smoking tobaccos which are so extensively grown on the silicious soils of Virginia and North Carolina.

Seed, when new and fresh, is of a dark brown color, which becomes lighter as the seed grows older. The number of seeds in an ounce is estimated by one person to be 337,875; by another, 432,000. Be this as it may, an ounce of seed is sufficient for four acres of tobacco. Strive to have early and vigorous plants, and plenty of them. Better have 10,000 too many than 1,000 too few. 4,840 plants will be required to the acre, if they are set 3x3 feet, the usual distance.

The successful grower must raise his own plants, and success depends largely upon early planting. For every acre intended to be planted, a seed-bed ten feet square should be sowed to secure an abundance of plants. The usual amount of seed required to sow such a bed would be a level tablespoonful, which is about half an ounce. This amount of seed is plenty to produce good, strong, healthy plants, with a better root than if sown more thickly. To be sure of success, make three or four sowings, a week apart. The main object in doing this is to secure choice plants to provide for replanting and to take advantage of the seasons.

The open-air method of raising plants is preferred, where it is practicable. If extra early plants are desired, they can be grown in well-drained beds, surrounded by plank frames, and covered with cheese-cloth. The cover to each bed should be a few

inches wider and longer than the frames, and loops or small rings should be sewn into the edge, about fifteen inches apart, in order to fasten the cover to the half-driven nails outside of the frames. The cover will require supporting. To do this, drive stakes about 3x3 feet apart down to a level with the upper edges of the boards, and on the top of the stakes tack light laths to support the cover. A covering of thin cloth has been found to hasten the growth of plants and protect them from freezing and injury by the flea-bugs. Should the "fly," or bug, gain access to the bed, use gypsum (land-plaster) in which rags that have been saturated with kerosene (coal-oil) have lain for several days. Give the plants a light dusting, and repeat it after each rain. One sixteenth of an ounce of strychnine, dissolved in two buckets of water and sprinkled over the plants, is recommended by some growers.

Along the Gulf coast the seed-beds should be ready early in January. As soon as the ground is free from frost, and is not too wet, rake off all trash and lay down poles about three or four feet apart, and crosswise on these put the wood and brush; set the whole on fire and burn over the surface thoroughly—that is, from one and a half to two hours. As soon as the soil is sufficiently cool, dig over the surface in such a way as not to bring up the coarse subsoil. Rake and roll the surface until the soil is very fine and mellow, keeping the ashes on the surface as much as possible.

Sprouting the seed is of advantage, if properly done. But sprouting the seed until the roots are so far projected that many of them are necessarily broken and destroyed in sowing is a ruinous method, and should be avoided. One method is to place the seed between alternate layers of woolen cloth, wetting the whole mass with warm water, and keeping it moist and warm by the use of warm water and the heat from a stove. In three or four days the seed-shell can, with a magnifying-glass, be seen to open at one end, and a small, white spot indicates that germination has commenced. At this stage the seed should be promptly sown.

As tobacco seed is the smallest of all farm seeds, the covering of earth should be exceedingly shallow; therefore, as good a way as any is to mix the seed with sifted wood ashes, or ammoniated superphosphate or gypsum, and sow a part of the seed lengthwise of the beds and the remainder crosswise, so as to insure an even distribution. The old-time method of very lightly brushing in the seed and tramping or rolling the surface well is one of the best.

In order to hasten the growth of the plants, liquid manure is unexcelled. That which has been leached through poultry manure, and diluted with three times as much water, and sprinkled over the plants in the evening, is productive of the desired result. To avoid packing the earth when watering, place a barrel midway between the beds, and eight or ten feet above them; fill it with the diluted liquid manure, then attach a hose-pipe to the barrel and fasten the discharging end to a stick, and use a revolving sprinkler. If the beds are covered, the cover should be removed a few days before the plants are set out.

W. M. K.

MELONS FOR PROFIT.

Choice muskmelons are finding a better market each year, especially at such places as Niagara Falls, where thousands visit at about the time melons are ripe, and hotels use them pretty freely. People who cater to this as well as to the critical private trade found this crop more than ordinarily profitable the past season.

To get and hold the best trade requires some care that customers do not get any poor melons, for there are few things as disappointing as a poor melon. With such varieties as Gem and Osage we have little trouble as fear, for there is seldom a poor specimen among them, and customers who buy them once are likely to want them again. The early crop is always best in quality. When the weather becomes cool the quality gradually deteriorates, and late in the season the melons will be almost tasteless.

A light or sandy soil is probably best

when well enriched, but I have grown good crops on any soil except a wet one, and prefer a well-rotted sod, plowed and manured in the fall and replowed in the spring, then again manured in the hills with well-rotted manure, several shovelfuls to the hill, well mixed in. Gems can be planted as close as four to five feet apart, but other varieties should be six to seven feet apart.

The early crop is most profitable, besides the quality being best, and I grow my plants in cold-frames in bottomless boxes about 4x4 inches, and about four inches deep. These are placed on an even surface on the bed, and filled with a good mixture



MUSKMELONS FOR PROFIT.

of compost and soil; then four or five seeds are planted in each box, covered, and given a light watering with lukewarm water. Sashes are then placed on, after which the plants will soon appear. They must be watched closely after up, for, as we have some pretty warm days about that time, one is apt to get them scorched by the bed being closed too tightly. Care must also be taken to protect them from being chilled. After the large leaves appear they should be thinned to one or two plants in a hill.

The proper time to plant in this locality is about April 15th. If planted earlier they are apt to overgrow. Besides, there is danger of their becoming chilled about as badly as though they were actually frozen, or chilled so much that plants set out later will overtake them. I plant about May 25th to June 1st.

In setting out, the hills are made ready to receive the plants with the ball of adhering earth. The boxes are taken up by running a flat shovel under them and setting them into flats. In the field I use a piece of scantling to fit in the inside of the boxes, or better, a smaller piece with a board of that size nailed on the end. After giving the plants a thorough wetting, they are pushed down over one scantling, and the box drops, while the scantling stands upright with the plant and ball of earth, which are carefully placed in the hill and the fine soil carefully drawn about it.

Gems are our earliest crop, and the best in quality, as a rule; but many prefer a larger melon, and for this the Osage and Tip-top fill the bill. There is little difference between the Osage and Miller's Cream, except that Miller's Cream seems to crack more, and therefore I prefer Osage. For a green-fleshed melon I like Jersey Belle best of anything tried.

I market the small ones, such as the Emerald Gem, in eight or ten pound baskets, and the large ones, such as the Osage, in bushel crates, as shown by the accompanying illustration of one of the pickings. CHRISTIAN WECKESSER.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" are of great service in subduing Hoarseness and Coughs. Sold only in boxes. Avoid imitations.

Orchard and Small Fruits.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED

BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

Winter Care of Fruit-trees.—A. V. F., Geriug, Neb., writes: "I received a bill of fruit-trees—apples, cherries, grapes, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries—too late in October for fall setting; so, according to notes of direction on the bill, I hurried the apple-trees, but heeled in the grapes, strawberries and raspberries in the cellar. Did I proceed right, and will the strawberries grow after being kept in dirt all winter and dampened occasionally? Also the other small fruit, among which is pie-plant? Use irrigation—our canal starts water April 15th. Would that be about the time for setting out? My ground

oughly whether you water or not, and cultivate immediately after each watering. Do not use water unless the plants need it. In watering, avoid using so much water that the land will become water-soaked.

Quince-curculio.—J. H. R., Highbridge, N. J. The quinces are probably infested with the larvae of the quince-curculio, which in its mature form is a snout-beetle that lays its eggs in the quinces early in the season. These snout-beetles feed on the fruit as well as lay their eggs in it. They commence their depredations early in the season. Some of the infested quinces fall off, and these should be gathered and burned or buried deeply. The beetles may be collected early in the morning by jarring the trees, when they fall quickly to the ground, where they may be gathered on sheets previously spread under them. The fruit and leaves of quinces should be sprayed, as soon as the flowers fall, with Bordeaux mixture containing Paris green at the rate of one pound to 150 gallons. This should be repeated—at least twice—at intervals of about two weeks, and will prevent the work of the curculio, codling-moth and many diseases. I do not understand what you mean by "excrecences all over the tree that appear to be worm-eaten," but should be very glad to receive a specimen by mail.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM OKLAHOMA.—We had the most beautiful fall imaginable. Fall wheat could not look better or more promising than it does now. We have had plenty of rain, but not too much at any one time. Farmers have been busy plowing getting ready for next year's crop. Health is good. Everything is rather low of the produce kind except cotton and oil-beans. Oklahoma is fast forging to the front. Eastern people are coming here to seek homes while they may be had at a low price. We have had one cool snap; ice formed one inch thick. No blizzards come here. Come one, come all, and enjoy our good climate. *Marena, Okla.* J. W.

FROM LOUISIANA.—We lately moved from the North to the sunny South. We left York county, Neb., the eighteenth of September, and came through with a team and wagon, and were about ten weeks on the road. Flowers bloom the year round here. The gardens are green now. We plant every month in the year except December and January. The principal crops here are rice and sugar-cane. *Jennings, La.* S. M. B.

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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

GETTING THE BEST PRICES.

THERE are thousands who ship poultry to market and complain that prices are low because the markets are full; but if farmers would give consideration to the state of the markets at all times, and know when to sell, it would put a great many dollars in their pockets. It is not long since they seemed to act in concert to sell altogether, thus forcing prices down, keeping up the shipments until they sold off all their stock. Now that the prices are going up, they have nothing to sell, and they are forced to witness good markets with a demand for a large supply which cannot be filled.

Then, again, the majority of farmers do not begin right. When they are hatching out the supply for the next year they do not give particular attention to the breeds—the kinds—using eggs for the hens that are not suitable for producing choice poultry, and raising stock which will never be able to be graded as choice. The strongest competitor of the farmer is his neighbor. If the neighbor is careful, and secures better stock than last year, he will be able to send something better than usual to market, will get the highest prices, and make a profit, because he "sets the pace" of prices by the quality of his goods, all other prices being for second-class stock. When the farmer finds the market price per pound quoted at from ten to fifteen cents, he must keep in view that the fifteen cents is for "choice;" the majority receive only ten.

Never ship live fowls at this season, as they will be exposed too much, and the cost of transportation will be higher; but kill, dry-pick, and pack in clean boxes, without paper, cloth or other packing material. The more uniform the carcasses in each lot the more attractive the appearance of the whole. A few choice fowls in a lot of inferior ones does not add to the value, for the good and the poor will be sold at a reduction. Geese sell best at certain holiday periods of the year. Our Jewish citizens are heavy buyers, and any one keeping track of the Jewish holidays will know when to ship geese. But the Jews never buy dressed stock; they kill the fowls after their own manner, and will not allow any one to kill and ship to them. Turkeys and chickens will now be in great demand. As soon as the market becomes overstocked, buyers begin to select only the best; hence, if inferior stock is sent to market it may be dumped in the river if it has strong competition with something better. One way out of this difficulty is to feed plenty of corn. The poorest fowl can be made fat in two weeks, and there is no more profitable mode of selling corn than to convert it into fat poultry.

FEEDING AND WORK.

There has been but very little poultry raising on the farms as it should be; that is, to give the birds the care that is required for animals, instead of feeding the fowls occasionally, depending upon them to secure what is needed. Any kind of location may be selected, as the poorest soil is as suitable for poultry as the best.

Feeding, however, is only a part of the duties. If poultry is expected to pay, warm houses will be essential, and each hen must have plenty of room. The fowls cannot take exercise outside when the ground is covered with snow, nor can they thrive if crowded inside of a building. It does not pay to put a large number together and then attach a ventilator to give fresh air, thereby liberating the warmth and introducing cold air, when a smaller number in a larger building will require no such procedure. A dozen hens should have a building ten feet square, and they will not have too much room if nest-boxes, dust-boxes and litter are provided for their convenience. Hens cannot be made to lay in the winter season unless kept busy, and not fed on a regular routine of corn and wheat. Give them meat and bone, as well as bulky food, and never feed them when they do not work in the litter. Just as soon as they become lazy, and look to the attendant for food, they have been receiving too much, and all food should then be held back until they are willing to work for it. The greatest drawback to egg production in the winter is not a lack of food,

but too much of it, and also because of a lack of variety. The first duty is to provide a warm building, and this is the season when preparations in that direction can be made to the best advantage.

BROILER CHICKS.

It will cost about one cent a week for ten weeks to raise a chick, and it may be made to reach the weight of two pounds at that age; but this depends on the kind of chick. It is too often the case that farmers hatch and raise chicks that have no breeding at all, so far as pure breeds are concerned. If one desires a chick that will reach two pounds in ten weeks, he must breed for it as well as feed for it. While the Leghorn is one of the best breeds for laying eggs, yet it is a small breed, and cannot make as rapid growth or reach as great weight as a Brahma, Cochon or Plymouth Rock. Such chicks, however, will eat less and cost no more per pound, but they will be slower in reaching the market, which is a disadvantage. "Is there a demand for very small chicks?" is an inquiry made of us. About Christmas, and along until the months of March or April, there is sometimes a demand for chicks weighing from one half to three quarters of a pound, and they often sell at \$1 each, retail. They are used mostly for sick persons; used in the place of squabs, and also by some who have a preference for such chicks. We do not believe it will pay to attempt to sell them when so small, however, unless one fully understands the markets and where to sell.

GIVE THE BOYS A CHANCE.

We know of no better plan for educating the boys to remain on the farm than to interest them in a flock of pure-bred fowls. The boy who owns his flock, and is induced to take an active interest in the birds, will soon have sufficient pride to be desirous of winning some of the prizes at shows, and he will in a short time not only have a knowledge of the characteristics of the breeds, but will also know every member of the flock. He will then have arrived at a stage of progress at which he will be interested in the pedigrees of animals, also, and know the families to which they belong. He will also have been educated to real enjoyment on the farm, and be successful because he has learned that the scrub on the farm is the curse that has destroyed hundreds of hopes. All who have lived on farms can remember the pleasures of watching the progress of the young colts, calves, lambs, pigs and chicks, for if there were no young animals on a farm, one half of the real pleasure of farm life would be missed. The best starting-point for the boy on the farm is with poultry. Give him a few pure-bred fowls, let him own them, and he will manage for himself.

THE COST OF EGGS.

If the hens have a range, and only a portion of their food is purchased, the cost of the food for each hen should not exceed seventy-five cents per year. If more is given, it will probably make the hens too fat. If the value of the food is properly estimated, the cost of the eggs can also be estimated without error. If a hen lays but seventy-five eggs in one year, the cost will be one cent each, or twelve and one half cents per dozen. If she lays 150 eggs in a year, the cost is just one half of the minimum number mentioned. Where one is near a large city, and prices are above the average, almost any kind of hen will at least give a profit or pay for her food. In the West, where grain is cheaper than in the East, fifty cents will pay for all that one hen can consume in a year; and although the farmers in the West do not receive as high prices as are obtained in the East, yet they realize larger profits than may be supposed.

A CROSS FOR HOME USE.

The best cross to produce fowls for home use is to use a Dorking or Indian Game male with your hens. Do not keep the pullets from the cross for laying, as these birds are bred more particularly for quality than for general purposes, though they are nearly equal to other breeds in more ways than for the table. Purchasers prefer yellow legs and skin, but the color of the legs is no indication of quality of flesh. All the Games are excellent table fowls, and good mothers when brooding chicks.

INQUIRIES.

Crossing to Hasten Growth.—G. W. C., Louisa, Va., writes: "How is it best to breed or cross Brahmas in order to hasten their growth?"

REPLY:—The best method is to feed regularly and plentifully, and keep them clear of lice. A cross of Leghorn will give early maturity, but will reduce the size.

Douglas Mixture.—M. E. G., Sulphur Springs, Ark., writes: "Please give the recipe for Douglas mixture in your next issue."

REPLY:—Dissolve one pound of copperas in two gallons of boiling rain-water, and when cold, add a gill of sulphuric acid. A teaspoonful to a gallon of drinking-water is used.

The Largest Breeds.—A. P. W., Sandusky, Ohio, writes: "Which are the three largest breeds of fowls known?"

REPLY:—The Asiatics are the largest, the Light Brahmas coming first, with the Cochins, Dark Brahmas and Langshans following.

Minorcas.—L. E. R., Cumberland, Md., writes: "What is the difference between rose-comb and single-comb Minorcas in their laying qualities, and is there any advantage possessed by Black Minorcas over the White variety?"

REPLY:—It is claimed that the rose-comb varieties are less liable to the effects of frost. So far as laying qualities are concerned, one variety is equal to the other. The Whites differ from the Blacks only in color.

Ration for One Year.—J. M., Paducah, Ky., writes: "What is the estimated allowance of grain for a hen one year?"

REPLY:—Five pecks of corn is the estimate, but when other foods are given, then the corn must be reduced proportionately. It may be stated that no two hens or flocks will eat the same quantity.

Nests.—P. E. J., Mt. Vernon, Ohio, writes: "What kind of material is most suitable for nests of sitting hens?"

REPLY:—Cut hay or straw mixed with wheat chaff is excellent, though any kind of soft and warm material will answer.

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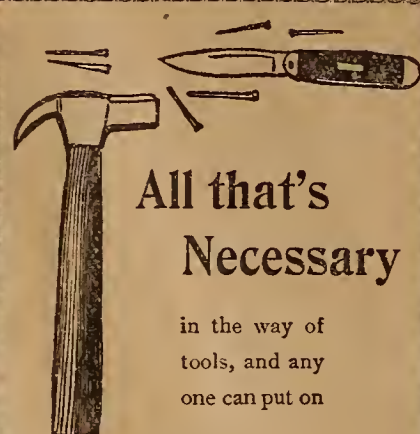
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That you love him ere life's evening
Tinge his brow with sunset glow.—
Why should good words ne'er be said
Of a friend till he is dead?

If you see the hot tears falling
From a brother's weeping eyes,
Share them, and by kindly sharing
Own your kinship with the skies.
Why should any one be glad
When a brother's heart is sad?

If your work is made more easy
By a friendly, helping hand,
Say so. Speak out bravely and truly,
Ere the darkness veil the land.
Should a brother workman dear
Falter for a word of cheer?

Scatter thus your seeds of kindness,
All enriching as you go.
Leave them. Trust the Harvest Giver,
He will make each seed to grow.
So until its happy end
Your life shall never lack a friend.

—*Jewish Voice.*

ISLAND ANNIE.

BY MRS. KATE TANNATT WOODS.

CHAPTER XI.

"O matchless melody! O perfect art!
O lovely, lofty voice, unfaltering!"



It was settled after many conferences and much necessary legal preparation that the wishes of Father Conway should be carried out as soon as possible, and on the seventh day of June (the banner month of the year) Mr. and Mrs. Hinsdale, with the two girls, sailed in the good ship *Newland*, for Liverpool. Alecia's uncle had made some objections, but the executors overruled them, and were united in their efforts to defend their trust.

A large party went down to see the travelers well started on their way. The doctor's aunt suddenly discovered that some business matters in New York could be attended to at that particular time, and, of course, the doctor could not permit her to travel alone. Mr. Hinsdale's former business partner invited his daughters to join the party, and there was a mysterious bit of secret service work performed in order to get honest Mike Little with them. Mike never knew quite how it all happened, but he was proud and glad to go, and not in the least awkward in the neat, new suit of clothes which Dr. Cameron had selected for him.

"I'll not say good-by now, my lass," he said to Annie when she had uttered her other farewells at the island; "you see, I shall have a bit of business, and I'll meet you at the Hinsdale's before you leave."

"That's right, father, I want to think of you looking well and happy at the very last," said Annie, as she kissed his brown cheek.

"I'll be happy always, my girl, thinking of you and of all the good you are learning, and what a fine woman you will make; and that will keep me from fretting. You must write often to the mother; you see, when a woman's tied down like with little ones, she's apt to get low in spirits, but there's a deal in your mother that's never been known yet, and no one understands better than your father how she'll hunger for you. This morning says she, 'Mike, if God should ask me how I would have our Annie changed, I can't think of a thing to alter, lest it might be not letting herself be imposed upon. She's too busy thinking of everyone else to remember herself. She's our comfort child, Mike,' says she, 'whether she's in Europe or at home.' It's all true, my girl, and if anything goes wrong betwixt our meeting again, just remember, my lass, that you are our comfort and our blessing."

"Dear father," said the girl, with a trembling voice, "you are glad to have me go, are you not? You think it best?"

"Aye, girl; proud and glad. It's a chance for you and the little ones, and many another will be glad, too. Next to getting a good thing is the sharing it, and every word you send home will be a blessing to us on our little island. You take your father's blessing with you, lass, and a good piece of his heart."

The *Newland* had a remarkable passage for several days. Very few had suffered from seasickness. The "sea was like a mill-pond," the sailors said, and some declared that it could not last.

"Don't croak, Jack," said Mr. Hinsdale to a sailor who had uttered some such sentiment;

"this is my tenth trip, and I have never encountered hut one gale."

"Well, sir, I don't like a sea like this; it means mischief when you're off this coast. If there's a bit of nasty shore in a gale, it's the coast of Ireland, sir, although I came from the old land myself, and like it as well as any man. If we don't get a snorting wind before we are many hours older, my name is not Jack Rafferty; but it is best not to scare the women-folks, sir; wait till it comes."

"All right, Jack; we are to have an entertainment in the saloon to-night, and I hope the wind will spare us until after that, as it is for the benefit of the sailors' home."

"I'll not whistle up the wind until it's over, sir," said Jack, with a laugh, and an extra hitch of his pantaloons.

The ladies were very busy. Mrs. Hinsdale had been appointed on the committee of arrangements, and both girls would take part. Alecia was looking over a sketch from Dickens, which she had been requested to recite. Annie was testing her guitar and replacing a broken string, for she was down on the list for two songs, which really meant at least four. A New York author was cudgeling his brains to prepare something appropriate to the occasion, for, alas! he could never recite ten lines of his own, he was so confident that other people's lines were better. A well-known politician, a dignified philosopher and a judge, had agreed to discuss the possibility of a woman ever being elected president of the United States, and Mrs. Hinsdale would act

husband, in a long blanket wrapper, sat near her, ready for any emergency, and utterly unable to think of rest. Only four hours since the merry party in the saloon were engaged in dancing, and now all was changed. The closed hatches made those dependent on fresh air uncomfortable; some were ill, some in mortal terror, some praying fervently, and one and all longing for the day to dawn. It came at last. The captain was lashed to the bridge, which he had never left for a moment since the gale began. No one but the officers and sailors was allowed on deck.

Mr. Hinsdale cheered and comforted as far as he could the worn and anxious passengers; Mrs. Hinsdale, although pale and worn, seconded all his efforts. A few men only appeared at the breakfast hour, and the steward and his assistants were kept busy in filling orders for hot drinks of all kinds. Annie had dressed with much difficulty, and now joined Mrs. Hinsdale, staggering from room to room, comforting the passengers. Word came that there was great suffering in the steerage, and that a little child had been born amid the storm and strife. The ship's doctor reported both mother and child as doing well. Now and then, out of the tumult, a great crash could be heard, and many closed their eyes, never again expecting to see home or friends.

So the good ship struggled on as the day advanced. Those who could move about looked in each others' faces, wondering what would come next. It was wonderful to note the heroism of the women. Faith and trust

"Friends," she said, "we will not despair; succor may reach us yet. If it comes, we will thank God for his mercy; if it fails, we will meet the end as becomes American men and women. God reigns on land and sea. His love is eternal, unchanging, unfailing, and, O my sisters, you brave ones who have so much to live for, you who so grandly endured supreme agony, I thank our Father in heaven for the heroism you have displayed here; henceforth let it be written everywhere that heroism is the birthright and heritage of American women. We will kneel in prayer, and then before we part, my young friend will sing for you."

They knelt on the deck, clinging to each other, as the shattered ship swayed and rocked by the still turbulent waves. One who saw that group says:

"It can never be forgotten. The fore part of the ship was doomed to settle before help came; all that the sailors and men could do to get the boats free was being done; the only hope now was in saving a few. We accepted our fate, and as we looked in the face of that heroic little woman, hareheaded, with her rippling locks floating about her pale face, as we saw her husband standing behind her to support her, and she, with those beautiful young girls on either side, looking into her calm, sweet face, full of courage and hope, with the group of helpless, hapless human beings of all ages and conditions hanging upon her words and bowing to her as an angel sent to help them, it was a scene to burn itself into the heart and brain of any beholder."

It was a prayer never to be reproduced, an appeal once heard never to be recalled without another prayer for the woman who made it. When she had finished, she clasped the hands of the two girls, and merely whispered:

"Sing, Annie, daughter of my heart, sing."

There was scarce a moment's silence, when out upon the now clear air floated the "lofty, unfaltering voice." "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth;" then followed "Rock of Ages," and as the final verse of "Jesus Lover of My Soul" fell from their lips, there was a sudden swerving of the broken ship, a few low, pitiful cries, and the forward part of the *Newland* settled under the water with its living freight; the stern still floated.

"If we can endure for one more night, the captain thinks help may arrive," said Mr. Hinsdale.

When they had rallied somewhat from the shock, from the sore, parched throats of the survivors came the cry, "Sing, sing more, and shut out the sound of the cruel sea."

Annie sang, her clear soprano gently supported by Alecia's second and the deep bass of a poor young student, whose long-cherished hope of going abroad to study would now never be realized. They spent the night in songs and prayer, and some of the mothers went cold and hungry in the pitiful attempt to shelter their loved ones.

Again the day dawned, and still the signals of distress were flying; but no help came. Still men and women watched and prayed, and waited for the end. A few who had attempted leaving by the boats were swamped by the going down of the fore part of the ship. Only one boat remained. The captain, haggard and worn, forbade it to be launched until the stern of his once fine ship showed signs of settling. The sea, as if in mockery, grew still and calm, and all prayed that help might come soon. A faint, gray streak of rocks could be seen some two miles away.

"Could they not try to reach it with their one boat, and pray for help to save a few precious lives?"

Captain Hortnett was surprised to hear this question almost whispered in his ears. He turned to meet the clear, steadfast gaze of Annie Little.

"The pull would be nothing for me, if you will permit it. I was brought up on the sea. I love the water, and just yonder, if we hasten, I can see a line which seems to say, 'Come, come.' Oh, captain, let me try to save the rest of our brave company."

"Who will go with you, my young woman? What right have we to choose?"

"Let it be by lot," said Mrs. Hinsdale.

"Amen! suit yourselves; I will let two of our sailors go with you, and mind, I stay here to meet the fate of my ship."

There was no panic as the one hope, the last boat was lowered, and they saw Annie, the sweet singer, take her place and lift her oars. Mr. Hinsdale remained with his wife, and the lot fell to two men and one woman with a little child.

"Let some one take my place," said the woman; "my husband has gone down, and some of you have more to live for."

Again they drew lots, and Alecia took her place. The girl pleaded to have Mrs. Hinsdale go, but the gentle woman, worthy of sainthood, declined. They rowed away, this little remnant of a once happy family, and Annie raised her eyes to meet those of her devoted friend.

"Pray," said the girl; "pray as you never prayed before, that we may soon meet again."

"Yes," said the good woman, "and do you



"WILL YOU BE MY WIFE?"

as mistress of ceremonies. No one lingered over the late dinner. Everyone who could do anything, from dancing a jig to writing a poem, was expected to contribute, and all for sweet charity's sake.

It was a delightful evening; the small world floating about at the mercy of the wind and waves put aside all thoughts of self or self-interest and joined in the festivities. It was remembered afterward that the gallant captain spent only a few moments with them. He had listened to Annie's first song, had liberally applauded the singer, and then returned to his post on the bridge. No one knew save himself that a fierce gale was brewing; no one felt as he must that the lives of all that joyous party were in his hands, under the guidance of the ever watchful One. Mr. Hinsdale had examined the captain's face closely, and he was not surprised to hear that no one could go on deck after the evening's merriment. Many knew it later on, when the ladies were strapped in their berths for safety, and the roaring wind caused the great ship to toss about like a bubble. Every board and timber creaked and groaned, and the ship trembled like one in fear.

Alecia fell asleep after her happy evening, but Annie was wakeful and restless. In the state-room next their own Mrs. Hinsdale was vainly trying to rest on the couch, while her

sustained them. The best seamanship, the finest skill and the most supreme watchfulness could not contend against wind and waves. Suddenly, as the hour of noon approached, the great ship seemed to writhe in mortal agony, and struck upon some hidden rocks on the Irish coast. Hope gave way to despair; the bravest saw no chance of escape, and soon the final terror came, when the ship parted nearly in two. As if in mockery of the ruin it had wrought, the wind went down, the storm abated, and the sun appeared.

Signals of distress were sent up, but the day wore away without help coming. On one side of the yawning chasm, now growing broader and broader, by reason of the sea breaking over it, were husbands calling to wives, and little children parted from their parents. Last messages were exchanged, kind farewells uttered, and brave men and women looked death calmly in the face.

All who could be on deck had assembled there before the crash came, and a goodly number were gathered about Mrs. Hinsdale and her family. She had comforted and cheered the faint-hearted, had prayed aloud, kneeling on the wet deck, and now, as she looked into the faces of men, women and children about her, she spoke to them. Her husband became her humble pupil as he watched her.

sing, my dear one, and let us go on our journey heavenward with your voice in our ears."

What wonderful power she had in those young arms, what strength and ease! All the lessons at the island, all the practice in beating surf and wild sea helped her now, and as the little boat pressed on over the water, toward that faint, gray streak of rocky land, the worn and hopeless watchers heard coming back to them a sweet voice, growing fainter and fainter, until at last they heard it no more, singing:

"There is sweet rest in heaven,
There is sweet rest in heaven,
There is sweet rest, sweet rest,
There is sweet rest in heaven."

CHAPTER XII.

Grandeur of character acts in the dark,
And succors those who never saw it.

—Emerson.

We never know our resources until some great emergency arises, and then we surprise ourselves. It was so with Mrs. Hinsdale; tenderly reared, of delicate frame, always fondly shielded and sheltered in her own home, she little dreamed that she would one day receive the title of "The Ship's Angel." Even the captain felt the inspiration of her presence, and he strongly encouraged building the raft which she had suggested, putting on it such provisions as might last for several days. The wind was tempered to their needs, and for two nights this fragment of ship still remained near the spot where she had struck.

Two little children passed away on the second night, which was one of intense anxiety to Mrs. Hinsdale and her husband. She had sent from her beloved adopted daughter, and although in her heart she felt that all was well, and that her prayers would be answered, she knew how hopeless it all seemed. Another anxiety arose. Her husband's old bronchial trouble returned with intense severity, and he was now quite prostrated. Still she kept up, feeding the sick with such food as could be found on the ship, comforting the sorrowing, and cheering all.

"Madam," said the captain, as he nearly fell over her while she was kneeling over a poor woman, "madam, if I never see land again, I shall thank God in the other world for having known you in this."

She smiled in reply, and begged him to use his glass once more, to see if help might be coming; she was anxious for her children, and would not give them up.

Cold and worn and weary, the little remnant of the ship's company saw another day dawn, and as the sun rose higher and higher, the captain thought he detected a faint streak of smoke on the horizon. Every eye was turned toward the spot; every heart beat high with hope. Slowly it increased in size, and came on and on. To the shipwrecked sufferers it seemed to creep, but to those on deck of the steamer it was well known that the speed was fast nearing the danger limit. At last signals were exchanged, and the small steamer bore down upon them.

Welcome, thrice welcome, this deliverer now far out of her course, and more than welcome was the dear voice, now somewhat husky from long usage, singing the evermore precious words, "Jesus Lover of My Soul."

The story of the rescue was not told until long after the transfer to the small steamer, when the captain unconsciously gave Island Annie due credit for her marvelous work. Ten weary miles had she rowed without once faltering. She had seen the steamer, had signaled and signaled almost hopelessly for hours, and still kept rowing toward it. One of the sailors had given out from sheer exhaustion, two of the passengers despaired, and prayed to die, but the courage of the young girl never faltered. Alecia had assisted until weary, but Annie knew neither weariness nor hunger while her friends were still in danger. She had compelled the seamen to obey her, and in lieu of attempting to reach land, they had rowed straight to the ship she had seen.

Only those who have known the perils of the sea can enter into the feelings of the rescued or the rescuers. Mr. Hinsdale required and received the best surgical skill, but permanent invalidism was his inheritance ever after the terrible exposure. His wife showed no trace of the agony through which she had passed, save in the snowy whiteness of her once brown locks, which had turned in a night—her "seal of the wreck," she said.

Dr. Cameron, sitting in his office in Boston, two weeks after the wreck, received a message which made his heart bound with gratitude. Cablegrams were then unknown, and the slow but faithful mail bore to him this brief sentence:

We are safe. Tell Annie's father that we owe our lives to her, and God's goodness. HINSDALE.

Two precious, eventful years passed away. The sweet voice which helped the poor, wrecked passengers had cheered many hearts, from royalty to peasant. Father Conway was correct; it was "God-given." Down on Peace island, the little cottage where the old priest had gone to rest was transformed into a school-room, where the children gathered each day for their lessons. Books and games were there, pictures and charts, and dearest of all, a piano—Annie's Christmas gift to her brothers and sisters. A little flower garden, always known as "Annie's garden," blossomed

among the gray rocks, and some clean, sweet maples rivaled in growth the fruit-trees near the farm-house. These, also, were Annie's wise provision for the coming years.

Alecia, long before her studies ceased, became the wife of a young man, a Canadian artist whom she met while traveling, and now she was with him in Russia making sketches which promised a future income.

Mr. Hinsdale dreaded the sea so much that another year was passed in traveling before he could make up his mind to come back "to die in his beloved America."

At last the wanderers returned, and the first face which Annie saw as the ship reached their pier was that of her father—older, brighter, fuller and more joyous than of old. She did not look for more, or she might have seen a young man who stood close by her father's side.

"Dear father, are they all well and safe?" she asked eagerly.

"All well, all safe, praise God!" was the answer; and then Annie turned, to find her hand clasped by Dr. Cameron.

"Your aunt, how is she?" was the first question.

"Waiting to greet you; your father has consented to spare you to us for this first home dinner on American soil. Come, Hinsdale; as your physician, I forbid your going home for the present. Your house is being thoroughly warmed for you, for these November days are chill."

Once more they gathered about the same table; once more they shared their hopes and fears, and then honest Mike Little went away, taking his brilliant daughter to his simple home on Peace island.

It was worth all the perils of the sea to gain such a greeting. A new girl baby, named for Mrs. Hinsdale, had arrived, and the children had grown so large and wise.

Michael Little did not feel that his girl was quite his own again until the next day, when, before the sun rose, she went out with him to the traps as of old, and sang to him on the return home.

"Oh, my lass, my dear lass, you'll never know the sorrow of our hearts when we heard that the Newland was lost!"

Annie shuddered. Never in all the years to come could she recall that time without a chill of horror; and yet among her chief treasures was a beautiful silver urn, inscribed, "To Miss Annie Little, whose voice kept us from despair, and whose brave endurance brought us succor, on the wreck of the ship Newland. From the survivors."

Mrs. Hinsdale owned the mate to this gift, bearing her name and the inscription, "She was the angel of our ship."

It was not all peace and sunshine in Annie's lot. Life's cloudy days are needed to fit us for our pleasures. The sunshine is always dearest after a storm.

For three long years Annie's great gift of song added to the devotional services of a well-known city church, while on the week-days she was either in her little school-room teaching the children, or out on the water seeking rest and comfort, or helping the ever patient mother. Such loyal service showed itself in the lives of the household, and when prosperity had set its seal on the labors of her father, then, and then only, did she listen to the wishes of her friends to make her home in the city once more.

It was a moonlight night in June. The children, now nearly all grown, were listening to Jan's weird stories about his adventures; their father had gone to the city on his fine, new schooner, and would return when the tide served. Mrs. Little was fast asleep, and Aunt Meg was the center of a group from the shore, about the door of the farm-house. Annie stole away to the lookout to watch for white sails of her namesake, which must soon come down through Salem harbor. She saw it at last, coming toward her like a dove, slowly moving its wings. She saw her brothers put out in their small boat, and then she saw her father hand them down, one by one, the packages he had secured for his family. Then another figure was seen in the uncertain light, caused by passing clouds, and Annie wondered who the guest might be.

"The new hired man, perhaps," she said. "Let us hope so, for the dear father's sake."

She gave one longing look toward the ever beautiful Beverly shore, turned again to gaze at Marblehead, bathed in the subtle charms of the moon's rays, and then again toward the city, where she had learned to know life at its best and to understand the great pulsing heart of humanity. She lingered for a moment, and then went slowly down to greet the travelers, and found herself face to face with Dr. Cameron.

"Annie," he said, as he drew her away from the little group about the boats, "I have something to tell you; will you come with me to Rest Cottage?"

"Yes; I always feel so near our dear friend there," she answered.

And they climbed the rocks together, as they had done so often in the past. On the little piazza, all its roughness now hidden by the moonlight, they sat down, she thinking only of some new or sad report from Mr. Hinsdale, he with his heart so filled with hope that words came slowly.

"My good right hand," he said, "have you ever thought me an impatient man?"

"Only when injustice gave you cause," she said.

"And injustice, alas, is too common," he replied. "But I am not here to moralize. For long, long years I have had one aim in life, and I am bold enough to think that I am reaching my goal. In these busy, wearing years for both of us you have never asked me for the last letter of our dear friend Father Conway."

"I knew you would tell me all he wished, if you thought it best, and when the time came."

"Thank you for that trust. It has come now. I am no longer a struggling student or an inexperienced physician. To-day, after all these years, good fortune has come to me. A relative has left me ample means, and now I can offer you the home you deserve, the home you alone can share."

"But, doctor, I—"

"Listen, Annie; here are our friend's words:

"My dear boy, if in the coming time you should learn to know the depth and sweetness, the strength and goodness of my Island Annie's character, it will comfort me in heaven to think of you as man and wife."

"Annie, I know you better even than he knew you, for you wear your noble womanhood crowned with experience. Will you, can you, ever love me as I have loved you since the old days when you sat by my side on the rocks yonder, a simple, trusting child? Will you be my wife?"

Half an hour later they stood before Michael Little, hand in hand.

"There's no need of words, doctor; I could not wish it different. A good lass ever makes a good wife."

He left them to their happiness, and Annie, always quiet when feeling deeply, heard her lover whisper:

"Dearest, we are at life's best,
Folded in God's encircling arm,
Wave-cradled thus, and wind-caressed."

THE END.

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POSITION IN SLEEP.

The question is often asked, "Shall we sleep on the right or left side?" Before giving an answer, it may be said that perhaps no bodily act is more under the influence of habit than that of the position of the body during sleep. People can accustom themselves to a great variety of ways. The European and American, for instance, want a soft feather pillow; the Chinese and Japanese, a hard one made of wood. People in northern countries want room to stretch themselves out; in the South they curl themselves up like monkeys. The Russians, in winter, sleep in a hot room, often over a stove; the Laplander crawls into a bag made of reindeer-skin; the German sleeps on and under a feather-bed. The hygienist sleeps on a hair mattress, with a hair pillow and an open window, and he sleeps on his right or left side, as is most agreeable; generally he changes from one side to the other during the night, often in his sleep, without waking. This change is advantageous, for it relieves the pressure on one side and gives a chance for the blood to flow more evenly in different parts of the body. It also relieves the internal organs of too long continued pressure in one way. Sleeping on the back is not to be advised; sleeping on the face is not objectionable if not continuous. Sleeping with the mouth wide open is wrong. It makes no difference in sleep whether the head points to the north, south, east or west. This statement I know some will controvert, but I have tested the subject thoroughly, and believe what I have said is true. Sleeping so the light will strike the eyes before it is time to wake in the morning is not good. Sleeping after a very heavy meal is unwise, as is also, under ordinary circumstances, going to bed hungry.

When one gets into bed he should dismiss from the mind the cares and worries of the day, forgive all enemies, relax the brain, and commit himself or herself to the great power that rules the universe, in confidence and hope. If healthy and with good habits, sleep will come, and with it refreshment and up-building.

BEE FARMS IN SERVIA.

A new industrial departure of great interest has been taken in Servia, where a "Society for Bee and Fruit Culture" has been established, says the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*. This society seeks to introduce a system of beekeeping on scientific principles, and of developing the industry on a profitable basis throughout that country, where, until lately, the peasants have been in the habit of keeping their bees in conical straw skeps daubed with mud or plaster, and destroying the bees to obtain the honey. It is probable that the society will provide the peasants with cheap straw skeps with supers, as well as bar-framed hives and other desirable agricultural appliances. The farm of the society contains about 200 hives, placed in regular rows over the ground, six feet six inches from each other, facing north. These hives are all on the bar-frame principle, and of the pattern generally known as Dzierzon hives, and they contain about eighty pounds of honey in the comb when full. They are made of wood, with straw sides, and cost about \$2.25 each. The bees appear to be a species of the common bee (*Apis mellifica*), but are rather small in size, and unusually tractable. The Italian bee (*Apis ligustica*) does not succeed well in Servia, becoming quickly merged into the indigenous stock.

The bee farm is provided with two centrifugal honey-extractors of very simple design, but perfectly practical. After extraction, the honey is put into glass bottles, with neat screw tops, imported from Austria, containing respectively half pound, one pound and two pounds. The price of the honey is about seventeen cents a pound, exclusive of the bottle, for which an extra charge is made. The wax is sold to the wax dealers for making into church candles, and realizes about thirty cents a pound. The importance of encouraging bee culture is evidently fully realized by the members of this society and others interested, and the introduction of a law is in contemplation obliging all priests, schoolmasters and certain others holding employment under the government to turn their attention to the keeping of bees.

MORE PATHETIC THAN HUMOROUS.

An aged couple living south of Brazil, Ind., who had devoted their threescore and ten to rural life and the making of a farm, sold their possessions for the snug sum of \$16,000. When the purchaser called with a notary to close up the deal by taking the deed of title, the husband having signed and passed it to the wife, she positively refused to sign without a consideration, saying that she had spent her life in making the farm, and had never realized anything she could call her own, and now was her opportunity. The husband failed to satisfy her and secure the signature. Then the purchaser asked to know what she would take to sign the deed, fearful that she would be exacting beyond his inclination to comply. After a good deal of hesitancy she said she thought she ought to have \$2, which he promptly handed her, and she signed the title. She turned over the silver dollars time and time again, laughing over her good luck. She said, "Well, well, this is the first money I have ever had in my life that I could call my own and spend it as I may wish to do to suit myself."—*Indianapolis Sentinel*.

DON'T.

We spend a large part of our lives at the table, and the world at large would be vastly improved by observing the following hints regarding table manners:

Don't bring your troubles to the table, to allow yourself to think or speak of domestic cares during meal-time. Half of the nostrums for the cure of dyspepsia, headache and neuralgia would disappear from the market if this rule should be followed. Silence and surliness on the one hand, querulous fault-finding and snarling on the other, are bad aids to digestion, and convert a feast into a fruitful breeder of disease. Those who have read "Southey's Table Talk" and other works of the kind may realize how greatly an agreeable, intellectual conversation can be made to conduce to physical benefit; and how a ready reply or happy repartee may convert a meal into "a feast of reason" as well as a moral agency for permanent mental and physical improvement. Try it. There is nothing like acquiring a habit in such matters. If you do not find a rich return in improved spirits, appetite and general bodily and mental comfort, the whole science and theory of hygiene is a delusion. Mr. Pecksniff's belief that in setting his wonderful digestive machinery in motion he was a benefactor of society was not a very bad idea, after all.

THE MORTGAGE.

A mortgage makes a man rustle, and it keeps him poor. It is a strong incentive to action, and a wholesale reminder of the fleeting months and years. It is fully as symbolical in its meaning as the hour-glass and scythe that mean death. A mortgage represents industry, because it is never idle, night or day. It is like a bosom friend, because the greater the adversity the closer it sticks to a fellow. It is like a brave soldier, for it never hesitates at charges, nor fears to close in on the enemy. It is like the sand-bag of the thug-silent in application, but deadly in effect. It is like the band of Providence—it spreads all over creation, and its influence is everywhere visible. It is like the grasp of the devil-fish—the longer it holds, the greater its strength. It will exercise feeble energies, and lend activity to a sluggish brain; but no matter how debtors work, the mortgage works harder still. A mortgage is a good thing to have in a family—provided, always, it is in somebody else's family.—*Truth*.

WINTERY WEATHER WEAKENS

the system, lowers the vitality and decreases the power of resistance against colds and chills. Many people are feeling weak and shivery just now. They complain of cold hands and feet. Their blood doesn't circulate properly; the raw, bleak air seems to go right through them. Others feel worn out and lack vigor. They are bilious, nervous, have backaches, headaches, and a pale, sallow complexion. All these symptoms indicate that the liver and kidneys are out of order. Feeble circulation of the blood shows that the system is in a very low condition. People who feel like this are facing some dangers they little suspect.

LOOK OUT

for pneumonia, influenza or some other dangerous complaint when you are in this state!

If you have any of these symptoms and are not feeling so well as you ought to feel, do not wait until you are laid up with a serious illness. Act at once. Take something that will build up the system, put the blood in healthful motion and act on the liver and kidneys. Prevention is better than cure.

There is only one way to get well. There is only one remedy that can make you well. The remedy you need is Warner's Safe Cure, which is recommended and prescribed by physicians throughout the world. This great remedy contains the vital principle essential to the maintenance of health and strength. It increases the muscular energy, fortifies the system and builds up every part of the body. It has never been equaled as a cure for liver and kidney complaint, bladder trouble or Bright's disease. It is the great standard remedy, the best remedy, the most reliable remedy known to medical science. Everyone who has ever tried it, believes in it.

If your health needs attention, do not experiment with inferior remedies. It is cheaper and wiser to take a remedy that has earned a world-wide reputation, which has stood the test of years and has proved, in millions of cases, that it can always be depended upon to relieve and cure.

A DROP OF WATER.

The water which is now in the ocean and in the river has been many times in the sky. The history of a single drop taken out of a glass of water is really a romantic one. No traveler has ever accomplished such distances in his life. That particle may have reflected the palm-trees of coral islands, and has caught the sun ray in the arch that spans a cloud clearing away from the valleys of Cumberland or California. It may have been carried by the Gulf stream from the shores of Florida and Cuba, to be turned into a crystal of ice beside the precipices of Spitzbergen. It may have hovered over the streets of London, and have formed a part of myrky fog, and have glistered on the young grass blade of April in Irish fields. It has been lifted up to heaven and sailed in great wool-pack clouds across the sky, forming part of a cloud mountain echoing with thunder. It has hung in a fleecy veil many miles above the earth at the close of long seasons of still weather. It has descended many times over in showers to refresh the earth, and has sparkled and bubbled in mossy fountains in every country in Europe. And it has returned to its native skies, having accomplished its purpose, to be stored once again with electricity to give it new life-producing qualities and equip it as heaven's messenger to earth once more.—*Charles S. Whiting, in the Museum*.

The Lightning Seed Sower!

Guaranteed to Sow from 50 to 80 Acres per Day (either Horseback or Foot), of Clover, Timothy, Millet, Flax, and all Seeds of same nature. Will be sent to any Postoffice on receipt of \$1.50. If not satisfactory, money refunded. Circulars free. Agents Wanted.

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REFERENCE: GOLDEN BANK.

25 VISITING CARDS. Fine white stock, fashionable size, script type. DEXTER LELAND, Westboro, Mass. 10c

\$95 WEEKLY \$5,000 yearly, no experience required, failure impossible; our scheme a new one; particulars free. Address S.S. Ware Co. Box 5308, Boston, Mass.

PRINTING OUTFIT 10c. Sets any name in one minute; prints 500 cards an hour. YOU can make money with it. A font of pretty type, also Indelible Ink, Type, Holder, Pads and Trestles. Best Line Marker, worth \$1.00. Sample mailed FREE for 10c. stamps for postage on outfit and large catalogue of 1000 Bargains. Same outfit with figures 15c. Larger outfit for printing two lines 25c. post paid. Ingersoll & Bro., 65 Cortlandt St., N. Y. City

MAGIC LANTERNS and STEREOPTICONS, all prices. Views illustrating every subject for PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS, etc. A profitable business for a man with a small capital. Also, Lanterns for Home Amusement. 265 page Catalogue, free. McALLISTER, Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau St., N. Y.

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Care of FARM AND FIRESIDE, 1643 Monadnock Block, Chicago, or 103 Times Building, New York City.

SELF THREADING THIMBLE.



Teeth and eyes saved. Needle threading conquered at last. This patent thimble combines a needle threader through which a needle can be easily threaded. Also a thread cutter which never dulls. Two ingenious attachments saving teeth, biting thread, and eyes threading needle while sewing. The thimbles are highly polished and plated and resemble coin silver. The threader is the most perfect ever produced. The combination thimble and threader retail for 10 cts. though they have been sold as high as a dollar a piece. Agents make \$3.00 a day. Sample by mail postpaid 10 cts., one doz., 85 cts.

H. T. ROOT & CO.,
34 Park Row, New York.

ESTABLISHED 1878
Dr. Scott's
GENUINE
Electric Belt



PRICE, \$3.00.

for men and women, quickly cures Rheumatism, Paralysis, Liver and Kidney troubles, Nervous and General Debility, Gout, Indigestion, Pains in the Head, Hips, Back or Limbs, and kindred complaints. If you cannot get our belt from your druggist, read the following plan, which we have adopted to introduce them quickly in your neighborhood.

Given Away

Dr. Scott's Electric Insoles.

For a limited period we will make to every person who sends us \$3 for one of our Standard Belts, a present of a pair of Dr. Scott's Celebrated Electric Insoles (Price 50c.), which will positively keep the feet warm and dry. Send for our circular giving information concerning all our goods. This offer is made for a short time only; do not delay; send at once; you may never have the chance again. Agents wanted.

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WOULD YOU Like a permanent position and \$150 monthly, if so write us at once. We will send you full particulars free, or a valuable sample of our goods in Sterling Silver upon receipt of Five Two cent stamps for postage, etc. Address Standard Silver Ware Co., Boston, Mass.

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TRUSS The BEST is none too good. Send for 100-page illustrated book, and learn Which is BEST—and WHY. L.B. SEELEY & CO., 25 S. 11th St., Philada., Pa.

Our Household.

OUR BOY LEFT HOME TO-DAY.

Our boy left home to-day!
How full of sorrow is my lonely, quivering heart;
For many days we shall not see his smiling face;
How shall we pass the hours from him apart?

He left his childhood's home to-day!
Things never can be quite as they have been before.

His room is dark and desolate to-night,
His hat and coat hang not behind the kitchen door.

We miss his boyish face so much;
Backward o'er months and years our sad thoughts turn;

Did we appreciate our boy when he was here?

We ask, as now our hearts for him so fondly yearn.

I try to think he will be back,
And for a visit he will only plan;
But then the thought that hurts comes back to me,
Our boy hereafter is a "business man."

He'll labor and gain wealth,
And then a wife and home he'll have; I must not mind,

But then the ties of childhood's home will break,
And we—oh, 'tis so lonely for those left behind!

This is the way of all the world,
One cannot have all pleasure sweet without alloy;

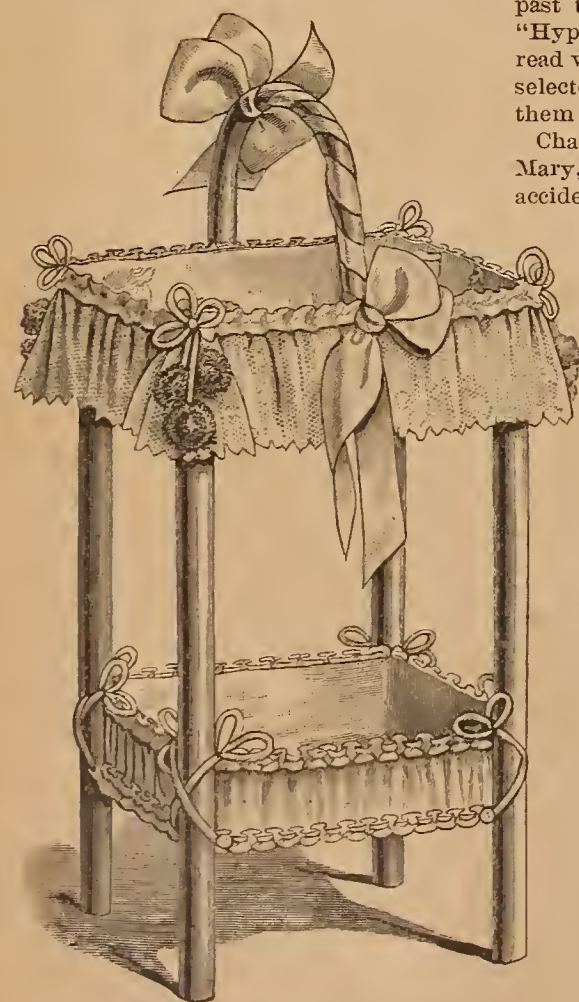
Sad partings come; and I can only pray to-night,

Thank God I have so good, so true a boy.
—Lenora Allen, in *Good Housekeeping*.

HOME TOPICS.

KITCHEN SLATE.—I had a maid of dusky hue in the kitchen; she was good-natured, willing and trusty in many ways, but she could not remember if I told her more than two things at once. Things were always going wrong unless I appeared in the kitchen at stated intervals to remind her of what was to be done next. She was much like another one, who, when her mistress asked her why she let the fire go out, innocently replied, "I don't know; I guess 'cause you forgot to tell me to put on more coal." At last I hit upon the plan of having a slate in the kitchen, upon which every night I wrote the program for the next day's work, bill of fare, etc. It worked like a charm, and things have moved more smoothly since.

DESSERTS.—Young housekeepers will find it a great help in emergencies to know how to make dishes for dessert which can be prepared on short notice. In summer, fresh fruits answer the purpose, but in



BABy-BASKET.

winter, especially if the first course is not very elaborate, something more substantial is better.

OMELET SOUFFLE.—Beat the whites of five eggs to a stiff froth. Beat the yolks

very light, with a teacupful of sugar and the juice and grated rind of a lemon. Mix all lightly, pour into a shallow, buttered dish, and bake ten minutes in a moderate oven.

STALE CAKE PUDDING.—If you have any sponge-cake or other plain, light cake which is a little stale, cut it in slices and lay in the dish in which it is to be served, pour over it enough hot boiled custard to moisten the cake, cover the dish quickly, and let it stand until ready to serve. Instead of the custard a rich chocolate may be used. Stale cake may be steamed, and eaten with any nice pudding sauce. Fruit-cake is very nice this way.

A COUGH REMEDY.—A very simple and effective remedy for a cough or inflamed throat from a cold is to put into a pint of pure whisky all the spruce gum it will dissolve, and a little more, then put a teaspoonful of this solution into half a glassful of water, and take a teaspoonful or two every time you cough, or every few minutes. Rubbing the throat and chest with mustard mixed with vaseline or cottolene will assist in relieving a croupy or hoarse cough or a pain in the chest. It will act as a counter-irritant, but will not blister.

A GIRL'S READING.—There is no doubt that the books a girl reads have much to do with forming her character. We must seek to place the best books in their hands until their literary taste is formed; but nothing will be so sure to give them a desire to read a book as to forbid it. It is unwise to forbid girls to read novels. In fact, the best reading of the day is our novels. It is natural for the young, with their fresh imagination, to enjoy fiction. Do not understand me to advocate the reading of all novels, but when there are so

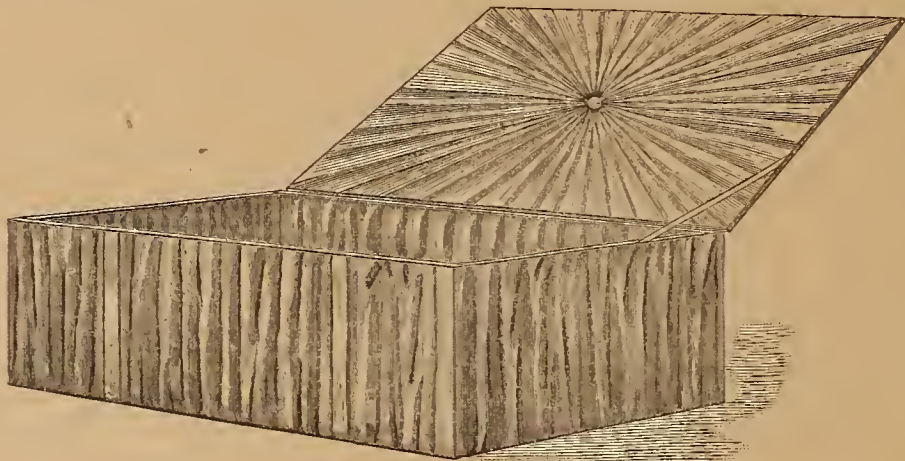
the care of baby at some part of the day. Mothers make a great mistake in being so much to a small child that she cannot be separated from it, even for a short time, without causing it to cry for her. It is best



FLANNEL WRAPPER.

to accustom it to seeing you go, bid you good-by, and be glad to see you back.

A mother can make herself a galley slave to her children from the time they come into the world until they marry and leave her, if she chooses to do so, but it



DAINTY HAMPER FOR DIAPERS.

many good ones, there is no need for reading any other. Walter Scott's novels are a perfect treasure-house of English and Scotch history. What better picture of the French revolution than is shown in the "Tale of Two Cities," or of the picturesque past than "The Last Days of Pompeii" or "Hypatia?" Encourage girls to read aloud, read with them, see that they have a well-selected library to choose from, and then let them read the books they like best.

Charles Lamb, in speaking of his sister Mary, says, "She was tumbled early, by accident or design, into a spacious closet of good old English reading, without much selection or prohibition, and browsed at will upon that fair and wholesome pasturage. Had I twenty girls, they should be brought up exactly in this fashion."

MAIDA McL.

THE BABY'S LAYETTE.

Many ingenious mothers fashion little conveniences for themselves for baby's belongings.

One mother took a fancy cracker-box, covered it with pale blue silesia and dotted swiss and made a very dainty hamper to contain all the diapers when laundered. They were easily found.

A convenient and firm baby-basket was fashioned out of two deep paste-board boxes, fastened to four supports of wood, easily obtainable, and also covered, the uprights being painted white, trimmings of ribbons and lace making it a very dainty affair. The top basket held the clothing for the day, and the lower one the toilet articles.

Nothing is so comfortable as a flannel wrapper, which can be made after our model, of any pretty flannel. These are more comfortable than the shawl or blanket, as they are apt to slip off and keep the baby hot or cold alternately.

All mothers should have some relief in

isn't at all necessary. She needs a rest part of the day, just as one does who cares for an invalid.

CHRISTIE IRVING.

COMFORTERS.

As the cold weather approaches, the busy housewife begins to pull down more woolen blankets and look over the store of comforters to see if there is a plentiful supply for winter use. It will not be very surprising if she finds some blankets more worn than she thought for; perhaps so thin that mending seems out of the question. Just use them for filling in the comforters, instead of cotton batting, and you will have a much warmer and lighter quilt.

In using the wool blankets, two or more in a comfort, try and have the worn places in one come in a stronger place in the next, and vice versa. Cut them in two, and bring the ends for the center in one, if that will make it come better, or cut lengthwise, and turn outside edges for the center. A layer of thin batting can be used in places that are still thin in spite of turns. If there is only one blanket to use up in this way, put batting with it. Put on the covers and tie just the same as an ordinary comforter; and I think they wash a good deal better where old blankets are used, supposing, of course, that the old blankets have been washed enough to get the shrink out of them.

Gypsy.

No doubt many persons have been struck by the curious name of Salpetriere—obviously meaning a saltpeter factory—given to the famous hospital for the insane in Paris, where Pinel, Vulpian, Esquirol and Chaveot worked out some of the deep problems connected with mental disease. It was a saltpeter factory, then an arsenal, then a home for aged and indigent women, then, after a century, an asylum for the incurably insane. There are now more than five thousand patients in it.

Mrs. H. M. PLUNKETT.

A HIGH TRIBUTE.

A CINCINNATI BUSINESS MAN PRAISES PINK PILLS.

From the Cincinnati, Ohio, Enquirer.

A well-known and popular citizen of the east end of Cincinnati is Robert Nimmo, who for the past nine years has been the general manager of the Gholson Feuce Company. Mr. Nimmo lives at 64 East Fourth Street with his wife and family. He is a man of force of character and is an expert in poultry foods, having devoted considerable attention to that subject.

A few months ago the many friends of Mr. Nimmo were seriously alarmed about his health. Mr. Nimmo tells an interesting story in connection with this illness that may prove beneficial to others who are suffering from nervous and stomach troubles. He said:

"Last October I caught a severe cold. It brought on dyspepsia and I had violent fits of coughing. My stomach became badly disordered, and to add to my trouble, I was so nervous that I could do nothing, and not only was afraid that I would be compelled to give up business, but that I would not live long. Several remedies were suggested to me and I tried three or four, but they didn't help me a particle. Some one called my attention to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I bought a box of them and I commenced to improve almost immediately. They not only drove away the feeling of misery in my stomach, but toned my system to such an extent that I am now a well man. Recently, however, I have not felt well, and I told my wife to-day that I would buy four more boxes of the Pink Pills, that they had cured me before and that they were a good thing to have in the house in case of sickness. I can recommend these Pink Pills in the highest terms. Some of the things I took when I contracted the cold seemed to do me good for a day or two, but the effect was not lasting. The benefit I derived from the Pink Pills was permanent. I deem it a privilege and a duty to pay tribute to the excellent qualities of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They did me so much good that others ought to try them. I am fifty-eight years of age, was born in Canada, and have resided in Cincinnati for about fourteen years."

He is one of thousands in this city who can testify that Pink Pills has given them new life and strength whether suffering from stomach or nervous disorders.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills contain in a condensed form all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are an unfailing specific for such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headache, the after effects of la grippe, palpitation of the heart, pale and sallow complexions, all forms of weakness either in male or female, and all diseases resulting from vitiated humors in the blood. Pink Pills are sold by all dealers, or will be sent post-paid on receipt of price, 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

WRISTLET.

ABBREVIATIONS.—St, stitch; sl, slip; m, make; p, purl; k, knit; tog, together.

Cast on 6 st, and for the first row slip 1, k 1, m 1, k 1, m 1, k 1, m 1, p 2 tog.

Second row—M 3, p 2 tog, k 1, p 4, k 1.

Third row—Sl 1, k 2, m 1, k 1, m 1, k 2, m 1, p 2 tog.

Fourth row—M 3, p 8 tog, k 1, p 5, k 2.

Fifth row—Sl 1, k 3, m 1, k 1, m 1, k 3, m 1, p 2 tog.

Sixth row—M 3, p 2 tog, k 1, p 7, k 2.

Seventh row—Sl 1, k 4, m 1, k 1, m 1, k 4, m 1, p 2 tog.

Eighth row—M 3, p 2 tog, k 1, p 2 tog, p 7, k 2.

Ninth row—Sl 1, k 1, sl 1, k 1, pass the slipped st over the knitted one, k 7, m 1, p 2 tog.

Tenth row—M 3, p 2 tog, k 1, p 2 tog, p 5, k 2.

Eleventh row—Sl 1, k 1, sl 1, k 1, pass the slipped st over the knitted one.

Twelfth row—M 3, p 2 tog, k 1, p 2 tog, p 3, k 2.

Thirteenth row—Sl 1, k 1, sl 1, k 1, pass the slipped st over the knitted one, k 3, m 1, p 2 tog.

Fourteenth row—M 3, p 2 tog, k 1, p 2 tog, p 1, k 2.

Fifteenth row—Sl 1, k 1, sl 1, k 1, pass the slipped st over the knitted one, k 1, m 1, p 2 tog.

Sixteenth row—M 3, p 1, k 1, p 4.

Repeat this pattern until you have a strip long enough to go around the wrist next to the hand. Six leaves will be enough for an ordinary-sized hand. Then cast off both ends of the strip together; take up on three needles the stitches of the lower edge, and k 1 plain, p 1, until the wristlet is of the desired length.

JANETT McW.

"A DOLLAR SEEMS A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY in these hard times." Yes, but if you have a Cough, a Cold, Asthma, Bronchitis, or incipient Consumption, a dollar spent for a bottle of Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, may prove your cheapest outlay; for you will then have the surest remedy ever known for such diseases.

KITCHEN CONVENIENCES.

If ever there comes a time of comparative leisure in the farm home, it is during the winter season, and the wife and housekeeper will find it to her advantage to have the "gude mon" of the house minister to her comfort and ease in doing the house work in the days to come, by providing little conveniences about the house.

Every kitchen needs and should have a low, comfortable rocking-chair, where the tired wife may drop down for a minute's rest now and then; where she may sit in comfort as she pares potatoes, seeds raisins, mixes cakes, and the many, many things that can be done just as quickly and well sitting as standing, and which will save one's strength for the harder tasks. If one cannot afford to buy such a chair, have one made this winter.

There is no house that does not hold some old chair that can be lowered a little by having the legs sawed off, and to which any man that can handle a saw and screw-driver can fit a pair of rockers. Cut a place in each leg as high up as the rocker is broad and as deep as it is thick, and fasten the rockers on with small screws, so that they do not extend out to the side of the legs, and in a few hours' time one can have a comfortable chair. A worn-out cane-seated chair may be used in this way by tacking a heavy piece of canvas or any firm material for the seat and covering with a pretty cushion.

Few kitchens are supplied with a dish-drainer, yet it is a convenience that should be lacking from none. One can be purchased at a small cost, or may be made from a worn-out pan. If the latter, with a large-sized nail and hammer fill the bottom with perforations and set it over another pan, or in the sink where the rinse-water can run off. As the dishes are washed, place them in this at a considerable angle, and always face up, as that is the side that needs the rinsing; rinse with scalding water, and if it is hot and can run off at once, they will need no wiping, as the heat will effectually dry them, and yet they will be clear and shining, the only secret being to have hot water and complete drainage.

In one kitchen is a device which the mistress declares she would not know how to get along without. It is fastened to the wall, its top forming a shelf on which are kept memorandum-book, receipt-books and such things. Below are small drawers, each one half as long as the shelf, so that there are two side by side. They hold spices, soda, baking-powder, cream of tartar and such things, and are lined with tin to prevent the contents losing flavor or absorbing from the wood. Below these are larger drawers the full length of the receptacle, which hold measuring-spoons, dish-towels and the thousand and one things needed in baking and cooking, yet which

When the things are washed, each one can, as it is wiped, be returned to its proper place without extra handling or steps; and any man at all handy with the use of tools can make one at little expense.

It would be convenient to have hanging beside this a pasteboard box, with cover sewed to one side to form a hinge, to hold paper bags, wrapping-paper and wrapping-twine, for these are things so frequently needed, but in many houses hard to find.

There are many other things that make our work easier or more pleasant that can be had at but little expense, if we only think about them. And after holidays is a good time to provide one's self with them.

If one would serve a baked fish nicely and neatly, have a tinsmith cut a sheet of tin—perforated if desired—to fit just inside the baking-pan, with a small handle attached to it. Lay the fish on this instead of on the bottom of the pan while cooking. When done, lift it out by means of the handle, and it can be easily slipped off onto the platter without being broken or otherwise rendered unsightly.

A wire potato-masher costs but five or ten cents, mashes the potatoes in one half the time a wooden one will, makes them light and flaky without any extra beating. Get one.

A little sheet-iron shovel or cake-turner costs but five cents, yet is almost indispensable to use in stirring or turning anything cooking that needs such attention.

C. S. EVERTS.

DOILIES.

The linen doily which we offer in this issue for the accommodation of our fancy-work readers is a holly design, the edge to be worked in white, the leaves in green and the berries in red. It is stamped on an excellent quality of linen, one half yard square, and sells in stores for 50 cents. We will send, postage paid, this linen doily (Premium No. 570) to any address for 25 cents; or with FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, 50 cents.

BATTENBURG BRAID LACE.

Carefully trace this pattern upon pink paper muslin, then go over it with ink.



BATTENBURG BRAID LACE.

it is often so hard to have convenient. As this is fastened to the wall just over the baking-table, all its contents can be easily reached without taking a single extra step.

When dry, baste on the lace, making the turns very neatly. Fill in the cross-threads, and cover the ones so designed with buttonhole-stitches. The wheels are

IVORY SOAP

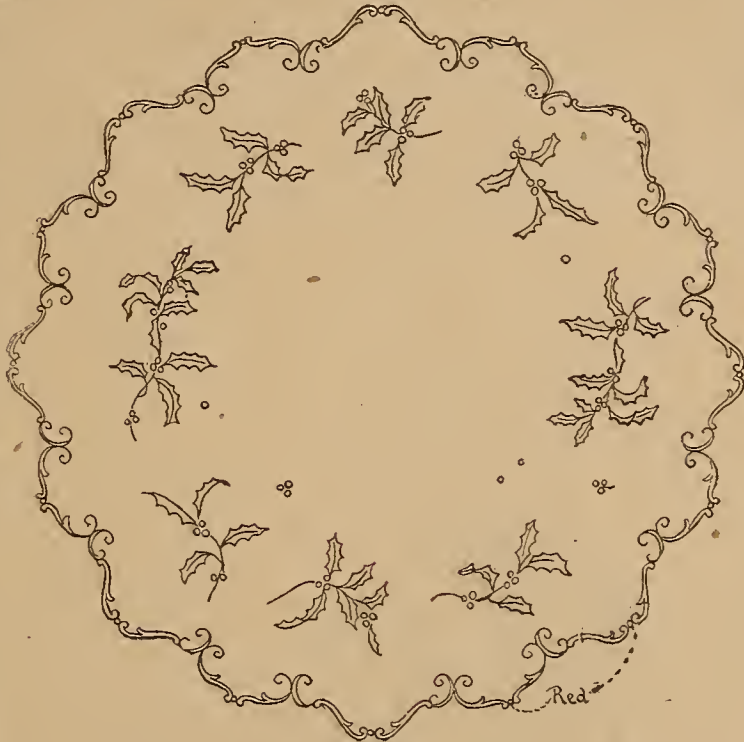
IT FLOATS

The muddy tinge of shirts, handkerchiefs, napkins, and table cloths just from the wash, is often from the poor soap. It will cost little, if any more, to have them washed with Ivory Soap.

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO., CINCINNATI.

made separately, of several strands wound around a pencil, and worked with buttonhole-stitch of linen thread. The edge is finished with a pearl-edged lace, which comes on purpose for such work. This is lovely to trim linen table-covers, and is very durable, also one of the late things in fancy work.

CHRISTIE IRVING.



LINEN DOILY. (1/2 yard square. Premium No. 570.)

KNITTED UNDERDRAWERS.

ABBREVIATIONS.—St, stitches; k, knit; p, purl; sl, slip.

The material is of that fleecy wool or yarn of equivalent quality. A pair of No. 4 needles and some No. 8 needles are required. The wool may be either scarlet, white or chinchilla.

With the No. 8 needles cast on 200 st for the body and one extra. This one extra st is to be marked with a colored thread in the middle of the work, to form a center to the body.

First row—K plain 100 st, p 1 (the center st), k plain 100.

Second row—K 2, p 2, and repeat to end of row.

Third row—K 2, p 2, and repeat to end of row; then repeat the last row three times more.

In the seventh row increase a st (by putting wool over the needle) on each side of the center st; all the rest of the row is k 2, p 2.

Eighth row—Like second row.

Ninth, tenth and eleventh rows the same.

Twelfth row like seventh, and next four rows like the second row.

Seventeenth row—Like second row.

Go on in this manner, increasing a st on each side of the center st in every fifth row until you have worked 68 rows, then divide the stitches in halves for the legs. Knit on the first half of the stitches 16 plain rows, still keeping the rib of 2 plain, 2 purl.

Now at the seventeenth row, with four needles join the work and knit eleven rounds 2 plain, 2 purl.

Twelfth round—Decrease 1 (that is, k 2 together) on each side of the seam st, which now is the stitch where the work is joined.

Thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth rounds ribbed by knitting 2 plain, 2 purl, as above.

Sixteenth round—Decrease 1 on each side of the seam st again; repeat from *, knitting four ribbed rounds, as above, between each round of decreasing.

Work in this manner until you have only 54 st left on the needles. Now knit twenty rows of k 1, p 3, and cast off loosely.

Now take up the stitches on the other leg and repeat the above directions exactly.

When both legs are finished, take up the center st of the body and knit a gusset. This is done thus:

K 1, turn, take up the stitch on last row of leg and knit it, turn, slip the first stitch, knit the next; knit the first stitch on the other leg, turn, sl 1, k 4; take up one on the next leg, turn, sl 1, knit all the rest, and take up one at the end of each row until the stitches are all knitted up to the join of the legs; then continue to knit, decreasing one at the end of each row as you take up the stitches on the other side of the leg and up the front of the body until you have only one stitch left; knit this, take up the stitches on the sides of the two fronts and knit three rows. Sew over strongly in the front, then take a crochet-needle and crochet a band of ten rows for the waist.

JANETT MCW.

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hump



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Our Household.

THE PRETTIEST HOUSE, AND WHY.

CERTAINLY we have not ceased to take interest in reminiscences of the world's fair. While there, very often we heard this exclamation, "Well, I did the state buildings to-day!" It was a large day's work, and ended with a great variety of opinions. Each person felt a peculiar pride or chagrin in exact proportion to the effect produced by the building representing the state



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of which he was a native. Ohio people said, "Ours is a respectable place, and although we make no great effort at display, we need not be ashamed of our quarters." Iowa had a corn palace. The interior decorations were composed of corn, red and white ears arranged in classic designs on walls and pillars. The ears were broken into thin disks, and these round forms, with the pretty coloring of the inside of the cob and the kernels at the edge, made centers from which radiated whole ears. New York had a pretentious mansion in modern French style, the best parts being semicircular verandas on each end, where fountains played amidst potted palms. Vermont had a strange little Mexican building which meant nobody knows what, and excited no emotion, but a baffled curiosity. Philadelphia had the clock-tower of Independence Hall, with the Liberty Bell. Mount Vernon, one of the stations on the intramural railroad, saved visitors the trouble of going to Virginia to see the old home of George Washington. I expected to be thrilled with admiration and awe, but actually my strongest feeling was a sympathy for little Miss Custis, that she put in so much of her time making ridiculous samplers on canvases and perforated cardboard. Dear women who crochet, carve, embroider, and otherwise embellish home, congratulate yourselves that you are so much more competent than George Washington's wife and step-daughter! Massachusetts reproduced the hip-roofed house of Governor Hancock, and any one who cared for relics there had a fair degree of satisfaction. The state of Washington had a palace of timber, and showed the possibility of logs almost as well as the forestry building itself.

When, a little tired of all that we have mentioned, we happened on the New Jersey building, it caused an agreeable surprise. It was a copy of the mansion at Morristown, where General Washington had his headquarters in 1777, and where Alexander Hamilton met and courted Miss Schuyler, who became his wife. This house, we were told, was sold, and is now used by the purchaser for a summer home. As I saw it at the fair, I will describe it:



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It was built of wood, and had nothing about its exterior to excite comment, except that it was eminently homelike. A porch was at the back and a veranda in front. The front door had a hospitable expression. It was flanked by double "engaged columns" separated by panes of glass. The door itself was wide, after the fashion of colonial times, and over it was a fanlike carving. On entering, one found himself in a square hall with a door opening onto the back porch. This door deserved attention. The upper part was separate from the lower, so that when open it had the effect of a window, admitting light and giving a view; but while the lower part was closed the

security of the apartment was obtained. A fine old stairway led upward at the back of the hall, to the right. The beauty of this house consisted in the fact that while fashions of a hundred years ago were revived, they were created in freshness, just as this home would have looked in 1770 if it had been newly furnished for the reception of a happy bride.

Mount Vernon was shabby, but exquisite little New Jersey was almost too dainty to be entered with dusty feet. The carpets were Brussels, in soft, artistic tints. The furniture was of the spindling-legged type. The windows had little panes of glass, the sills were high, but the feeling of the whole was peaceful rest. Ascending the stairway, the visitor found the upper hall even more beautiful than the one below. Its shape was square, but it had a circular opening surrounded by a graceful railing, which gave the effect of a gallery. The width between the railing and the walls was about six feet at the sides, and, of course, more at the corners. Attractive, cozy-looking seats and low, easy sofas were arranged along the walls in a way that was the personification of comfort. Opening from this hall were bedrooms. To describe one will give you an idea of the rest:

The color was blue, of a delicate shade mixed with gray. The carpet and walls were so nearly perfect that you only knew that your feet felt relief and your eyes were soothed. A screen was at the door, so that, if desired, an added degree of privacy could be obtained. The window-curtains were beautiful chintz with blue flowers. They were ruffled and gracefully looped back. The bed had a canopy and covering like the curtains. There was a dressing-table, very plain, almost severe in its chaste arrangement. A couch with



HUGGER.

cushions at each end was prepared for a chance siesta; a sofa for a tete-a-tete. There were a few light chairs; a high mantel sparingly carved had over it a mirror and held one object; namely, a clock.

The house-builder and home-furnisher could do no better than to study this sample of the beautiful in domestic architecture. And why was this place more beautiful than any other state building? Because better than pride, grandeur or immensity is quietness. Better than tower, temple or monument is home.

KATE E. KAUFFMAN.

HUGGER.

This comfortable garment to wear under a cloak is easily crocheted from the illustration. Commence in the back, and crochet each way from the middle.

NETTING.

LESSON III.—LOOSE LOOPS IN CLUSTERS.

DOILY.—Use three sizes mesh-sticks and No. 30 cotton. Throw twenty loops on the foundation thread with the largest mesh, then make three rows with the smallest mesh, then one row with the middle-sized mesh. This completes the scallop. When enough scallops have been made, sew them on, lapping them as seen in the illustration.

NETTED LACE.—Three sizes mesh-sticks. Throw on sufficient loops to make required length, with middle-sized mesh-stick. With smallest mesh make four rows. Then make one row with largest mesh, putting three loops in each loop of preceding row. Now make three more rows with the smallest mesh, then one with largest, then one with the smallest, taking up three loops at a time; then another row with the smallest mesh, as follows: Put the thread around the mesh twice before making the first knot, then in the same loop make two more knots with the thread around the mesh but

once; continue thus across the work. Make the next row in the same manner, working in the long loops. Now make one row with the largest mesh, putting three stitches in each loop; then the last row with the smallest mesh, one stitch in each loop.

Illustrations certainly cannot do justice to netted laces; they must be seen to be appreciated.

GRACE MCCOWEN.

HOME.

Oh, stay at home, my heart, and rest,
Home-keeping hearts are happiest.

The poet who wrote these lines had certainly found the true secret of happiness. To be contented and happy at home is one of the greatest blessings that can fall to the lot of woman. There is nothing more pleasant than to see a woman contented in her own little sphere, happy as wife and mother, her home her own little world, a haven of refuge from the outside world, with its cares and troubles, in which she has no part, and she has no need to envy a queen. Life's trials come to her as to all, but what are they in comparison to many others. She has her home, her husband, her children—sum total of human happiness—and all other things seem trifling in comparison.

Whenever a woman gets the idea in her head that going about and visiting is the chief end and aim of existence, she parts company forever with contentment, for a spirit of restlessness is begotten that will never be put down, and from that time on home is only second in her heart. Among her acquaintances are many others who, like herself, find home duties irksome, and children tiresome, and husbands neglectful, and as it only takes a small cloud to obscure the luminary in their small heavens, by comparing troubles, they soon manage to get their mental horizon pretty well clouded over, and have something quite "inspiring" to think over until some future meeting, when they can again chew over the end of discontent, tell each other of fancied grievances, and build up higher the wall between them and future peace.

No difference what takes place at home, they must attend every public gathering, leaving the children with a neighbor, or with any person accommodating enough to stay with them; but where is the person who will take the care of children that their mother will give them? I never could think of leaving my children to go to some place of amusement. The idea of enjoying myself when those precious babies were wishing with all their little hearts for "mama" was always too much for me, so at the risk of being called foolish I stayed with them, and never regretted it. When two of them were called from earth, I never had to think that I had for one short hour neglected them or caused them sorrow.

So many times we read of children being burned up when left alone, while the mother is chatting with a neighbor. God pity such mothers, if their remorse can equal their neglect. The more any one goes, the more they want to go, is as true as that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west; so while our babies need our



NETTING.

watchful care, be it said of us that we at least know what is best for them, and ourselves, too, for a few short years, and make our visits few and far between. Children, too, are much better contented if kept for the most part at home, for the demoralizing effect of gadding seems to be even worse on them, and if they cannot go to "Yummy's" or "Susie's" to play every day, will be dreadfully put out. So make home attractive, and you and your children will love it for its own sake.

A. M. M.

I sent for a shirt-waist pattern some time ago. Must say am very much pleased with it. It fits lovely.
MISS LAZZIE MORRIS,
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EARLY FORTUNE is the earliest potato grown, and has proved it. A potato grower writes: "Early Fortune is the earliest potato in the world, I have tested everything; quality, shape, and color the best. One potato produced me over 80 lbs. It is going to lead everything." We want a great test made in 1896, and will give Free a barrel of them to growers of the largest yield from one potato in each State and Territory. One potato is worth \$1.00 to any person.

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Our Sunday Afternoon.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR.

God of the old year and the new,
Of seasons, fields and flowers;
God of the harvest and the fruits,
The sunshine and the showers;
God of the rich man and the poor,
Of cottage and of hall;
God of all creatures here below,
The mighty and the small;

God of what has been and will be,
The birth and end of years;
God the true fountain of our joys,
The helper in our tears;
God who directs the stormy wind,
And gives the zephyr breath;
God who presides o'er human life,
And rules the realms of death;

God who supports the tottering steps
Of infancy and age;
God who unrolls the blanks of time,
And fills its august page;
God who bends monarchs to his will
Or sweeps them from his path;
God who is seen in forms of love,
Or felt in forms of wrath.

God of the old year and the new,
The nations come to thee;
To supplicate thy pardoning power
They bend the humble knee;
They call thee mighty ruler, judge,
The father and the king;
To thee they offer praise and prayer,
And hymns of glory sing.

The past, so full of evil deeds,
Of misrule and of wrong,
Of gross forgetfulness of right,
Of rapine by the strong;
The past, when men alike forgot
Thy lessons and thy will,
And shunned thy counsels and thy word,
To seek for paths of ill.

That past is now before thy throne.
God, help us in that hour
When we are called to meet each act,
By thy almighty power;
We ask forgiveness for the past,
In thine appointed way,
And promise that the opening year
Shall crown a better day.

God of the old year and the new,
A world looks up to thee,
With bended hearts and tearful eyes,
To set the prisoners free,
To arm each heart with stronger faith,
To battle for the right,
And trust thy promises that God
Is with them in the fight.

God of the old year and the new,
Thus do thy children pray.
Hear them, O father, from thy throne!
And bring a better day,
When all shall praise thy holy name
And do thy sovereign will,
When God shall rule o'er the earth,
And goodness banish ill.

RELIGION IN LIFE.

WE may insist on the separation of church and state, but never let us divorce religion and the state. Religion belongs to the state, to trade, to commerce, to all business activities and to all social life. Here is a man I have been trying to help. This is the way he reasons: "Oh, yes, I believe in religion, in churches. You ministers are doing a good work. We must have churches; but I don't mix religion and business. I keep religion out of my business."

Here is another man who shakes hands with us just before elections. He is a professional politician, and he is a typical example of a man who keeps religion out of his business. Dr. Charles Parkhurst does not hide the truth when he says, "If I were to mention the greatest lesson that I have learned during the past three years, it would be that of the damnable dangerousness of a professional politician." Dr. Parkhurst's book, "Our Fight with Tammany," is an interesting and inspiring account of the introduction of religion into the government of New York City. What would you think of a man who would say to the sunlight, "Shine yonder, but do not shine here where I conduct my business?" Yet this is the way some people look upon the Christian religion. They do not want the light of true religion to penetrate their business. But Christ is the light of the world. Oh, how true it is that the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehendeth it not!—Rev. Jas. A. Brown.

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I have a sure, quick remedy. To prove it, I will send a \$1.00 bottle, sealed, free. Address Mrs. J. De Vere, P. O. Box 494, Philadelphia, Pa.

CHURCHES ON WHEELS.

The Russian government has been for some years building a stupendous railway, which, with its connections, will be six thousand miles long, extending from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok, on the eastern coast of Siberia. Three thousand seven hundred miles yet remain to be constructed. The road runs to a village, then to scattered houses, then passes a long stretch of territory in which there are few human inhabitants. The holy synod—that part of the Russian government which controls the national churches—finding it impossible to erect churches which the people could reach, has decided to make churches that can reach the people. Five church cars have already been constructed. Each traverses a particular section, and each is fitted up with the complex arrangements necessary to the Greek worship, with two priests on each car. Each church can comfortably seat thirty or forty people. Two settlements are daily visited, which will be for the five an average of seventy settlements a week. Where the population justifies it, the car stops long enough to hold several services. The people have a time-table, and are on hand when the car arrives, so that no time is lost. These particulars were obtained by the San Francisco Examiner, from Mr. L. K. Minnock, representative of the English rolling-mills which furnish the rails to the government for the construction of the road.

EMINENT WITNESSES.

Speaking of the religious views of many of our great scientists, a German periodical shows how many who have been great discoverers have also been loyal believers in Christ. Copernicus, Kepler and Newton are spoken of as earnest Christians, who saw the handwriting of God in all the works of nature. On Copernicus' gravestone the following inscription is given: "I do not expect the favor which Thou hast given to Paul nor the grace with which Thou forgavest Peter; only the clemency which Thou hast shown to the thief on the cross I beseech Thee to grant me." Kepler's faith is evident in the closing words of his greatest work. He says: "I thank Thee, my Lord and Creator, for the joy which the work of Thy hands hath given me." * * * If I have said anything unworthy of Thee, graciously forgive me." Of Newton it was said that he never pronounced the name of God without uncovering his head. And Faraday prized the Bible as his dearest and best book, and often explained the Scriptures in meeting and attended service regularly on the Sabbath. Wiegand, late professor of botany in the University of Marburg, especially desired on his death-bed that the world should be informed that a scientist had died who was a believer.

DON'T FRET.

If you find yourself irritated and unhappy, take hold of yourself by the collar and set yourself down hard, and say to yourself: "Well, what is it? Suppose that it is so, how long will it stay so?" What difference will it make a short time from now? A good night's sleep will dissipate the most of it. If nothing else will remedy it, death will, and that is not very far away. Why should I allow the brief time I have to be happy in this brief life to be turned into misery? I will not do it. I will not permit myself to be fretted and chafed and embittered. Then go and dash cold water over your head, and take hold of some sort of work.—*The Interior.*

TESTED.

Disagreeable Sundays sift church members as honestly as the test of lapping water sifted the ten thousand troops under Gideon. Those who really want to go to God's house on a wet or a wintry Sunday, confess that all the trash of skeptics, from Renan down to Ingersoll, does not inspire such misgivings for Christianity as are awakened by the spectacle of delinquent Christians in bad weather.—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*

ARE YOU READY?

All lines of prophecy indicate that we are near a crisis in our world's history. The precious time when it will come we know not. The golden moments of probation are fleeting, and what is done for God and his cause must be done quickly. Nothing short of an affectionate, practical confidence in Christ will deliver us from the gathering storm of divine wrath.—*Light Bearer.*

If you want a sure relief for pains in the back, side, chest, or limbs, use an

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and Head Noises relieved by using Wilson's Common Sense Ear Drums. New scientific invention; different from all other devices. The only safe, simple, comfortable and invisible Ear Drum in the world. Helps where medical skill fails. No wire or string attachment. Write for pamphlet. **WILSON EAR DRUM CO.,** Offices: 138 Trust Bldg., Louisville, Ky. 1122 Broadway, New York.

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CONSUMPTION

To THE EDITOR—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy free to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post office address. **T.A. Slocum, M.C., 183 Pearl St., New York.**

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Has a Pad different from all others, is cup shape, with self-adjusting Ball in center, adapts itself to all positions of the body, while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines, just as a person does with the finger. With light pressure the Hernia is held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, durable and cheap. Sent by mail. Circulars free. **C. H. EGGLESTON & CO., 1205 N. MASONIC TEMPLE, CHICAGO.**

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Our Miscellany.

JAPANESE children are taught to write with both hands.

THE drug quinine was named in honor of a Spanish princess.

MELBA's fee, whether for concert or opera, is never less than \$1,000.

PINEAPPLE-JUICE is a valuable medicine for indigestion and throat troubles.

KNOWLEDGE dwells on heads replete with thoughts of other men; wisdom, in minds attentive to their own.

IN some Hindn temples in South India the collection is taken up by an elephant that goes around with a basket.

IF America were as densely populated as Europe it would contain as many people as there are in the whole world at the present time.

OF the 5,000,000 inhabitants of London more than 1,300,000 have to live on less than \$5 a week for each family, while more than 300,000 are in chronic poverty.

JAPANESE travelers and enterprising adventurers are now found in many countries. Immigrants by thousands dwell in Hawaii, the United States, Australia, Mexico, Corea and China.

A MASSACHUSETTS paper the other day, after describing the favorite canine of a local dignitary, concluded by stating that the animal was a very fine specimen of the "genius homo of bulldogs."

THE majority of recent calculations on the speed of the sun through space place it at about forty miles per second, or nearly five thousand times faster than the average express-train moves.

THE area of the British colonies is 8,000,000 square miles, that of the French 3,000,000, of the Dutch 660,000, of the Portuguese 206,000, of the Spanish 170,000, of the German 99,000, and of the Danish 74,000.

"So you like him?"

"Yes. He did me the greatest favor one man can do another."

"What was that?"

"He married my homely daughter."—*Truth*.

YEAST—"I expect to live to see the day when the bicycle will take the place of the horse entirely."

Crimsonbeak—"Well, I don't. They'll never be able to make Frankfurter sausages out of the bicycle."—*Yonkers Statesman*.

BARLEY is among the most ancient of cultivated plants. The common or four-rowed barley, as also the six-rowed kind, probably originated from the two-rowed, which appears to have been the kind earliest cultivated. It is a native of western Asia.

THE powder used in big guns is queer-looking stuff. Each grain is a hexagonal prism, an inch wide and two thirds of an inch thick, with a hole bored through the middle of it. In appearance it resembles nothing so much as a piece of wood. If you touch a match to it it will take seven or eight seconds to go off.

MEXICO produces anything that can be raised in any other country. So varied is the climate that in the same state can be raised any product of the tropics and of the polar region. Cotton, wheat, rye, silver, silk, coconuts, bananas, rice, cocoa, vanilla, logwood, mahogany, hides and wines are the principal products.

ONE of the schemes for future engineers to work at will be the sinking of a shaft 12,000 or 15,000 feet into the earth for the purpose of utilizing the central heat of the globe. It is said that such a depth is by no means impossible, with the improved machinery and advanced methods of the coming engineer. Water at a temperature of 200 degrees centigrade, which can, it is said, be obtained from these deep borings, would not only heat houses and public buildings, but would furnish power that could be utilized for many purposes.

CHINESE WEDDINGS.

When a Chinese girl is married, her attendants are always the oldest and ugliest women in the neighborhood, who are paid to act as foils to her beauty.

LANDS FOR SALE.

AT LOW PRICES AND ON EASY TERMS. The Illinois Central Railroad Company offers for sale on easy terms and at low prices, 150,000 acres of choice fruit, gardening, farm and grazing lands located in SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. They are also largely interested in, and call especial attention to the 600,000 acres of land in the famous YAZOO VALLEY of Mississippi, lying along and owned by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, and which that Company offers at low prices and on long terms. Special inducements and facilities offered to go and examine these lands both in Southern Illinois and in the "Yazoo Valley," Miss. For further description, map and any information, address or call upon E. P. SKENE, Land Commissioner, No. 1 Park Row, Chicago, Ill.; or, G. W. MCGINNIS, Ass't Land Commissioner, Memphis, Tenn.

MRS. TOM THUMB ON THE NEW WOMAN.

"It seems to me," says Mrs. Tom Thumb, who for thirty-five years has been a familiar mite in the world, and all that time has kept her eyes open and her brain going, "it seems to me that it is not the developing of the new woman we want so much as the reformation of the old man."

There is the whole matter in a nutshell. Nothing ails the fair sex. It is just about as near to perfection now as it need be. The trouble is with the other sex, which has been steadily deteriorating; and the feminine enthusiasts who are wasting their time trying to improve something which does not need improving should devote their time and attention to the problem how to restore the men to their former position.

It is hard to understand why anybody wants to develop a new woman. The woman of the present day is all right. She has plenty of brains, and she knows how to employ them in that part of the world's work which is allotted to her. She has become skilful in marketing. She has made a science of cooking. She sews better than ever before. She shows more taste in making her home beautiful and more ingenuity in making it comfortable. She takes better care of her children, educates them better, clothes them with greater attention to hygiene. She cares better for herself. She is more beautiful, because she has learned how to be beautiful in natural ways. She studies harder and knows better how to please and cheer and comfort the bread-winner whose life and fortune she shares. Besides all this she has improved her mind and fitted herself to be the intellectual as well as the physical companion of her husband. She has explored the lands of literature and art and science and seized a share of their treasures. Altogether she is an admirable figure.

Why should anybody want to alter her? Alteration could not be improvement.

Mrs. Tom Thumb is right. If anybody needs the thought and improving endeavors of humanitarians it is the old man. He could stand a deal of improving without serious injury.—*Chicago Tribune*.

LITTLE ETHEL'S IDEA OF THUNDER.

Little four-year-old Ethel recently accompanied her mother on a visit to friends in Nevada county, California, and for the first time in her life heard some heavy blasting in the mines. Curiosity soon took the place of fear, and her mother was compelled to explain the process in every detail. She told the little girl how the miners drilled holes in the hard rock, filled them with powder, put in a fuse, and after touching a match to it, ran to a place of safety to await the explosion that would break up the rock into bits. Ethel was greatly interested in it all, and her mother took her to see the whole process. A few days afterward a thunder-storm came up. At the first roll of thunder Ethel inquired:

"Is that a blast, mama?"

"No, Ethel; that is thunder."

"Do the men make it with powder?"

"No, my child; God makes it."

"How does he do, mama? Does he touch it off and run?"

A LIBERAL OFFER.

We will send six imported Japanese handkerchiefs and a case of choice perfumery, post-paid, for ten cents, silver. This is a genuine offer to advertise our goods. Address Lee Mfg. Co., P. O. Box 1634, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE STONE FORESTS OF ARIZONA.

The regions of the Little Colorado river in Arizona abound in wonderful vegetable petrifications, whole forests being found in some places which are hard as flint, but which look as if but recently stripped of their foliage. Some of these stone trees are standing just as natural as life, while others are piled across each other just like the fallen monarchs of a real wood forest. Geologists say that these trees were once covered to the depth of 1,000 feet with marl, which transformed them from wood to solid rock. This marl, after a lapse of ages, washed out, leaving some of the trees standing in an upright position. The majority of them, however, are piled helter-skelter in all directions, thousands of cords being sometimes piled up on an acre of ground.

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D. & C. Learn how to get, grow and care for the famous D. & C. Roses and how to cultivate all other desirable flowers. in the 27th annual edition of our *New Guide to Rose Culture*—just out for 1896. This splendidly illustrated 110-page book & sample of our Magazine will be mailed free on request. **ROSES** The Dingee & Conard Co., West Grove, Pa.

FREE Yourself from the disagreeable task of washing dishes the old way, by using the new **Model Dish Washer** Agents wanted. Big Profits. C. F. Black & Co., Toledo, O.

Writers Wanted to do copy at home. Sre thing. 2c. stamp. A. F. Park, Gallon, Ohio.

LEAN'S ALL STEEL HARROW Last a lifetime. UNEQUALLED for all kinds of farm work. Saves its cost first season on growing crops. All steel, no castings to break—strongest and simplest lever adjusting arrangement made. Write for **RODERICK LEAN MFG. CO.** descriptive circular. 75 Park St., Mansfield, Ohio.

A BIG FRAUD

Was what some people considered our liberal offer which was so generally advertised last year. So in making a more liberal one this year we want everyone to understand that any offer made by the EPITOMIST PUBLISHING CO., is genuine and just as advertised as the editor of Farm and Fireside can testify.

OUR OFFER THIS YEAR IS 50 Cents Worth of Seeds ABSOLUTELY FREE. of your own selection

The following is a copy of the order or Due-Bill which we send you and which will be accepted by either of the Seed Houses named therein:

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THE AGRICULTURAL EPITOMIST INDIANAPOLIS, IND. November 1st, 1895.

This Due-Bill will be accepted by any one of the following Seed Houses in payment for Fifty Cents' worth of Seeds, to be selected from their 1896 Catalogue, or will be accepted as so much money to apply on a larger order.

JOHN A. SALZER SEED CO., La Crosse, Wis.
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And will be redeemed by the undersigned under conditions of contract with above Seed Houses
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It's like this—You send us your name and address all written out plainly and in full and 50 cents for one year's subscription to the

AGRICULTURAL EPITOMIST and we will send you the due-bill which will be accepted by either of the firms named in the bill, in payment for 50 cents worth of anything listed in their 1896 catalogue of your own selection.

WHAT A PROMINENT INDIANA FARMER SAYS:

EDITOR AGRICULTURAL EPITOMIST: DEAR SIR:—I have been noting with pleasure the rapid improvement in the EPITOMIST and I assure you I will do all I can to help you make it one of the very best Agricultural papers in the country. I will speak a good word for the EPITOMIST whenever I go to the institutes and will give you an ad. for seed corn next spring. Yours truly, JAMES RILEY, Thornton, Ind.

You may want to know particulars of our \$500.00 cash prize contest. Write us for this and sample copy of the EPITOMIST. We want agents everywhere and may be able to put you in the way of earning some money. Better look into this matter.

REMEMBER!—THE AGRICULTURAL EPITOMIST only 50 cents a year including the 50 cent due-bill.

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Send \$2.00 for The Altruistic Review for an entire year, and we will send you a membership for three years, with catalogues, etc., postage free.

This is a rare offer, and it will give you good reading matter for a whole year; and if the membership does not save you from \$10 to \$50 a year, it will be your fault.

Address Manager THE ALTRUISTIC REVIEW, Springfield, Ohio.

Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Queries desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Prizetaker Onion.—J. W. M., Guion, Texas. Prizetaker onion seed is listed by all good seedsmen. See our advertising columns, and send for catalogues.

Alfalfa Seed.—H. E. D., Utica, Ohio. Alfalfa seed is catalogued by nearly all seedsmen. For free pamphlet on culture of alfalfa write to Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Water-willows.—J. R. B. B., Williamsport, Ind., writes: "Tell me how to get rid of water-willows that are growing in a slough which I wish to cultivate."

REPLY:—We know of no other way than grubbing them out. The slough should be ditched or tile-drained, as the presence of water-willows indicates that land is too wet for cultivation.

Incarnate Clover—Killing Wild Blackberries.—G. S., Barlow, Oreg., writes: "Have you ever heard of incarnate clover as a fertilizer?—Is there any way of killing wild blackberries?"

REPLY:—Incarnate clover is another name for crimson clover. It is an excellent fertilizer. Apply to it what you have read during the past two or three years about crimson clover.—Good plowing and thorough cultivation will destroy wild blackberries. If they are in a pasture-field which you do not care to plow up, then mow them off close to the ground, and pasture the field closely with sheep. The sheep will keep down the young sprouts, and in time the blackberries will die out.

Grubs.—F. H., Scio, Ohio, writes: "I have a field which I want to put in corn next season. The ground is full of grubs. Can you tell me how to get rid of them?"

REPLY:—We presume you mean the large, white grubs of the May-beetle. A herd of young hogs in the field while plowing is going on will destroy many of them. As a means of preventing their ravages, delay planting the corn until the middle of May, or until the weather becomes warm and settled. Harrow the ground before the corn is up; harrow it again when the corn is a few inches high, then cultivate frequently and thoroughly during the growing season. While this thorough cultivation will not destroy the grubs, it will do all that can be done to lessen their ravages.

Kafir-corn.—J. J. G., Ogden, Utah, writes: "I am about to go on eighty acres of home-land, principally to run an egg farm. I would like to raise Kafir-corn without irrigation, as I would have to pay \$10 per acre for irrigation-water. The land is rather sloping, and it would require considerable money to make the ditches. I do not intend to feed my poultry on Kafir-corn exclusively, but this is all the grain I want to raise."

REPLY:—By all means try Kafir-corn. It is a wonderful plant to stand dry weather. It is one of the non-saccharine sorghums, and is claimed to be of great value, both for its grain and forage, for the semi-arid West. In your latitude it will probably mature a second crop of grain after the first is cut off. It will require from three to five pounds of seed per acre, drilled in rows three feet apart. You can get the seed of any good seed firm.

Water-cress.—D. E. W., Milton, Del. This hardy perennial aquatic plant roots readily both in water and wet or moist soil, and after once being introduced will thrive in almost any small stream of clear, cold water, ditch or pond without care or culture. On account of the pleasant pungency and hygienic properties of the leaves, it is highly esteemed as a table delicacy, and extensively grown for market near all the larger cities. It makes a superior salad, and fine material for garnishing. To introduce it in any stream or body of water, sow seed or a few cuttings or pieces of root in the mud, along the margin, and it will increase rapidly, often entirely overrunning ditches and small brooks. Flooding is the best winter protection. Gather and market in spring. It also grows well on a moist greenhouse bench, and on any upland that can be kept continuously moist. (From "How to Make the Garden Pay.")

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE:—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column, must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

An Impotent Horse.—C. G., Springhill, Ohio. No remedy.

Wants to Know the Cause of Death.—W. C., Mason, Mich. I cannot tell you what caused the death of your cow. Your description of the disease is too meager, and all the changes you noticed at the post-mortem examination are probably nothing but post-mortem changes, the result of dissolution and putrefaction.

A "Lump."—H. J., Marionville, Mo. What you call "a lump," situated on the side of your horse where the trace rubs, may be a hernia. Have the animal examined by a competent man, either by a veterinarian or, if none is available, by a physician.

A Bad Habit.—J. H. B., Revere, Pa., writes: "Can anything be done for a mare that has the habit of switching her tail when in harness? She strikes the reins, and then starts off as if scared, or if she is going down hill and touches her tail on the cross-bar of the shafts, she starts the same way."

ANSWER:—What the questioner complains of is, as a rule, a bad habit. If there are any special causes to account for it, they must be removed.

Polyuria.—J. F. N., Markleville, Pa. What you describe, an exceedingly frequent discharge of urine as clear as "crystal," is a case of polyuria. Horses thus affected must not be fed with any musty or spoiled oats or with any other musty or dusty food. An improvement will soon be visible, unless the disease is chronic and of too long standing, if the food is changed and nothing but perfectly sound, clean and bright food is given. If this is done, no medicines will be necessary; and if it is not done, medicines will be perfectly useless.

Oil-cake.—L. S., Independence, Iowa, writes: "Is it safe at all times to feed milk cows linseed-meal? Is a cow likely to abort if she is fed, besides bran, corn-meal and oats, about one pint of such meal a day?"

ANSWER:—Flax-seed oil cake or meal is not considered dangerous if genuine and not spoiled, but cotton-seed oil-cake has the reputation of causing abortion, and is not considered a safe food for cows during the period of gestation. Its injurious effect, probably, is not so much due to peculiar properties of the cotton-seed itself as to the products of certain micro-organisms present in the oil-cake.

Spurious Cow-pox.—E. S., Cincinnati, Ohio, writes: "We have a cow that gets large boils on her teats. The boils are at first yellowish red, then become crusts, and finally go off. They even cover the opening of the teat. For several years she has had garget, and we have been milking her three times a day. The boils first made their appearance last summer, and as soon as one disappears another is formed on a different part of the teat."

ANSWER:—What you describe is probably a case of what is often called "spurious cow-pox." See to it that the cow is fed with nothing but good, dry food, good hay especially, and does not get any brewery grains, distillery slops, etc., that she has a dry and clean stable, and that the milking is done with dry and clean (just washed) hands. To the pustules themselves you may apply after each milking a mixture of olive-oil and lime-water, equal parts.

An Old Wound a Foot Long.—T. G., Wall Lake, Iowa, writes: "I have a horse that has hurt his hind leg. I think he tore it on the head of a spike that was in a post in the pasture. The sore is almost a foot long, and extends from just below the knee-joint to the upper pastern-joint. The skin has drawn back until the exposed flesh is three inches wide. At first I washed and bandaged it every day and put on a liniment made of carbolic acid and linseed-oil. I gave up the bandage and dusted dry, air-slaked lime on it. When it gets dry I put on some of the liniment. It does not heal over as it should. There is some swelling in the leg, but he is not lame."

ANSWER:—By all means employ, as soon as possible, a competent veterinarian to examine and treat your animal, who, in the first place, will know whether anything can be accomplished, and secondly, what can and what has to be done to unite the gaping borders of the wound, provided your treatment has not already had the effect of making the borders of the wound too callous and too much contracted to make a union possible.

Hydremia.—J. H. D., Madison Run, Va., writes: "I have a mare that is out of condition. She had a colt last May, and up to that time kept fat, but after dropping the colt she began to lose flesh. I worked her all summer, but not hard. After weaning the colt she still lost more flesh, and about six days ago her hind legs began to swell a little around the ankle-joint, and the swelling since that time has increased and worked up above the knee-joint. The front legs are now in the same fix. The legs are swelled about three times the usual size. When I take the mare out and work her awhile, most of the swelling goes down. She does not seem stiff, works and pulls well, and has a good appetite. I have been feeding her on corn and good, bright fodder all fall, but since her legs began swelling, I have changed to oats, bran and timothy hay, and have given her two tablespoonfuls of a condition-powder in bran mash once a day. She is very thin in flesh, and coat does not look right."

ANSWER:—Feed your mare wholesome and nutritious food in sufficient quantities, give her pure water to drink, keep her in a good, clean and dry stall, with sufficient bedding, groom well and exempt her from all kinds of work. If her appetite is not satisfactory, it may become advisable to give her a few condiments, but condition-powders are not only not needed, but injurious. The swelled legs should receive once a day or oftener a good rubbing, and if the weather is good, voluntary exercise will also have a very favorable influence. If there should be any discharge from the uterus—you do not say that there is—the same requires special treatment; for instance, injections with a one-per-cent solution of creoline, or with some other antiseptic in a weak solution.

A Kicker.—A. K., Sawyer, Wis., writes: "I have a five-year-old horse, in good flesh, that is in the habit of kicking his stable to pieces during the night, besides hurting his legs occasionally. He used to kick before I got him, although 'snake poor.' After I got him he did not kick, and I never had any bother with him until his mate died last spring. When his present mate came he seemed to dislike her, and once in awhile he would kick during the night. Would take him to another stall and he would be quiet. Again, I could put him back and he would behave all right for a few nights, and then begin to kick again. Now he is getting so that he will kick, no matter where I put him. Last night he carried on for several hours, and I changed his position and fed him. Two hours later he lay stretched out as if dead, and refused to get up; but got up in a few minutes, and seems to be all right. He does not seem to be sick or hurt, feels well, and kicks even though he is pretty tired in the evening. He begins to kick slowly and lightly, but soon commences harder and faster, until he kicks about four times a minute. The minute he hears some one near the stable he steps forward and eats. He seldom kicks to the side of his stall, but straight to the end of the stable. Once in awhile he will kick lightly during the day, when he has to stand long without work. He seems to be friendly, too, and fond of the other horses, but was very much afraid of the one that died, as she kept him pretty well 'under the thumb.' Can you throw any light on the subject? Why does he kick? Is it only a habit, or can there be any other cause? Is it only meanness, or may something be wrong with him? What can be done to prevent him from doing it? If it is only a habit, what will break him of it?"

ANSWER:—You can have some fun, and at the same time thoroughly break your horse of his bad habit of kicking in the stable, if you take a strong canvas bag (a good, stout grain-bag will answer), fill it half full with sand, tie it, and suspend it with a rope from the ceiling of stable about two feet behind the horse, and at such a height that the horse while kicking will surely strike it. As soon as the horse kicks the bag, the fun begins. The sand-bag retaliates, the horse kicks again, but the sand-bag pays back, with compound interest. The outcome will be that the horse gets tired and perplexed, while the sand-bag don't know any such a thing as getting tired, and is always ready for business. Soon the horse will crouch as far forward as possible, and having found his master, will admit his defeat and stop kicking. Do not remove the bag until the horse is completely cured.

GOSPEL TRUTH.

Why Tell a Lie and Get Caught at It?

True Merit Always Stands the Test—A Few Instances to Prove It—Many More Where They Come From.



Testimonials are not much good in a horse trade.

You want to buy a horse to trot in three minutes. Trot the horse, that tells the story.

Every day we get letters saying, "If we only knew that No-To-Bac would cure the tobacco habit we would gladly give five times the price."

We often wonder whether such people really want a cure.

Why? Simply because we absolutely sell No-To-Bac under a guarantee to cure, and at a price within the reach of all. Your own druggist guarantees it, so you don't have to take our word. Over 20,000 druggists sell and guarantee No-To-Bac; over 1,000,000 boxes sold; over 300,000 cures; over 10,000 testimonial letters with requests to publish. Here are a few:

MINISTER SAVED AFTER THIRTY-ONE YEARS.

TYRONE, ARK., September 16th, 1895.

Gentlemen:—I must say that for thirty-one years I have been a perfect slave to tobacco, and can safely say, as a minister of the gospel, that two boxes of No-To-Bac has completely cured me of any desire for the poisonous weed, so that I feel like a man once more in life.

Yours truly, REV. J. A. PRESTON.

DRIVEN OUT OF TEXAS.

CLOVERDALE, IND., August 10th, 1895.

Gentlemen:—One year ago, while living in Henrietta, Texas, I became so nervous from the use of tobacco that it was a burden to me to keep still in one place any length of time.

I bought one box of your No-To-Bac and used it according to directions, and gained fifteen pounds in two weeks. It cured me of the use of tobacco and also of nervousness, for which I am thankful.

Yours respectfully, J. E. FRAIZER.

HAD TOBACCO HEART FAILURE.

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., September 25th, 1895.

Dear Sir:—I have been cured of the use of tobacco by taking No-To-Bac. I never felt better in my life than right now. I am forty-nine years old, and do not know what sickness means now. I used to be sick while using tobacco, and had spells of heart failure, but it is all gone, thanks to No-To-Bac.

Very truly yours, JAMES C. BATEMAN.

YEARS OF TOBACCO EATING.

GALENA, KANS., July 27th, 1895.

Gentlemen:—A year ago I sent to you for three boxes of No-To-Bac, and before two was used all desire for tobacco was gone, and since tobacco has not entered my mouth—and this, after not chewing, but eating it for years. I used over a pound a week. I can say to all who desire to quit tobacco permanently, give No-To-Bac an honest trial and you will succeed.

Respectfully, W. H. BOYCE.

Now, frankly, what more can we do or say? It is for you to act. Just try to-day; the right time is right now. If you don't like feeling better after the first week, you can learn tobacco using over again. "Get our booklet, 'Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away.' Written guarantee, free sample mailed for the asking. Address the Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

WE TELL HOW to make & sell spring beds. Pays agents **200 per cent** profit. We supply material and tools. **Ordway & Co., 220 Gay St., Peoria, Ill.**

My **ELECTRIC BELT** sent on **TRIAL FREE** **DR. JUDD, Detroit, Mich.** Want agts.

BACKACHE

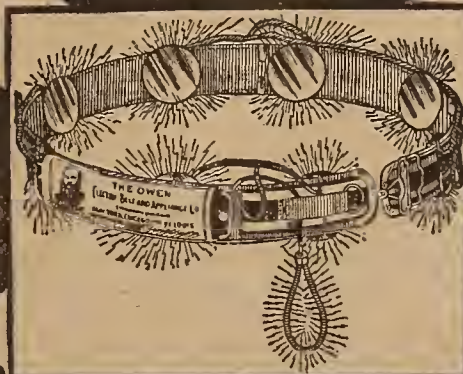
DR. A. OWEN'S

ELECTRIC

APPLIANCES

CURE

RHEUMATISM



OUR LARGE

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

CONTAINS MANY ENDORSEMENTS LIKE ABOVE.

SEND 6 CENTS IN STAMPS FOR IT AT ONCE.

THE OWEN ELECTRIC APPLIANCE CO.

205 TO 209 STATE STREET, CHICAGO.

STOMACH COMPLAINTS

WEAKNESS

Mr. GUSTAVE A. HORICH, of Kalispell, Mont., under date of Sept. 22, 1895, says: "The Electric Belt I bought from you last February has cured me of Pains in my Back and Side, Costiveness and Rheumatism. To-day I am a new man, owing entirely to using your Electric Belt."

Mrs. G. W. RHEA, of Carthage, Ill., writing us on Oct. 11, 1895, says: "I cannot speak too highly of Dr. Owen's Electric Appliances. I was cured of Rheumatism and Weakness. I recommend Dr. Owen's Electric Appliances to all ladies in search of health."

SPECULATION AND INVESTMENT COMBINED.

A man who buys land, either as an investment or for speculative purposes, naturally does so upon the belief that it will increase in value. If investigation shows that the soil is productive, the transportation facilities good, and the market such as will enable the farmer to profitably dispose of his products, the logical conclusion must be that the investment is a safe one.

The facts presented in the columns of this paper by the Clark Syndicate Companies show that the small farms in the Tallahassee country now being offered in the market by these companies meet the conditions referred to in the previous paragraph, and hence they present opportunities for speculation and investment such as should attract the attention of both investor and settler.

Mr. H. R. Duval, the president of one of the great railroad systems of the South, in a recent interview says: "It is within the range of probability that the tobacco crop of Florida will ultimately have a greater cash value than the present annual crop of the island of Sumatra, which is ten million to fifteen million dollars." He does not hesitate to express the opinion that "the tobacco crop of Florida may yet be worth more to the people of the state than its orange crop, great as that no doubt will be after the groves that are now in course of restoration come again into full bearing." And he bases this opinion upon the actual results which are now in process of being obtained in Leon and Gadsden Counties, in Western Florida.

We quote Mr. Duval especially because he is a gentleman of very large railroad experience, and, as was stated in a recent issue, has probably done more to bring about the great interest in tobacco growing in Western Florida than all other people combined.

We therefore direct the attention of our readers to the possibilities in the way of profit which may come from investing in small tobacco farms in Western Florida, such as are now being offered through the Clark Syndicate Companies.

The same reasoning applies with equal force to the purchase of small farms, the soil of which can be devoted to the raising of other products which will prove equally profitable to the settler, and with results equally satisfactory to the investor.

THE NEW SOUTHWARD MOVEMENT.

In our issue of November 1st we published an editorial under the above title, and, as our readers will remember, it was then stated that we intended to send representatives South to investigate what we believed to be the new conditions which were coming to the front with reference to Southern immigration. We also stated that if our associate and his companions were favorably impressed with the possibilities of the South, we should present the results to our readers, and as the great representative agricultural paper of this country, should endeavor to do our full part in building up that section of the country.

Since that time we have presented to our readers in great detail the evidence of what has been and is being done by what is known as the Clark Syndicate Companies of Western Florida.

Those of our readers who have taken the trouble to carefully read what has been presented to them in the columns of our papers under the auspices of these companies, cannot fail to be impressed with the very unusual array of testimony regarding the character of the soil and the possibilities of the Tallahassee country.

We have never allowed ourselves to become indorsers of what is ordinarily termed a land scheme, but we state unhesitatingly that the high personal and business repute of the gentlemen controlling these companies would be, of itself, sufficient to justify an indorsement on our part.

But when their statements are corroborated by nearly all the leading officials of the state, by the prominent merchants who live in that section of the country, by the farmers who have tilled the soil for several generations, and by leading clergymen of different denominations, it is certainly safe for us as a great agricultural authority to lend our approval to the unusually strong array of indorsements that have been made with reference to the published statements of these companies.

We can do no more than present to our readers the testimony that is laid before us, and call their attention to the strong and positive character of the representations made with reference to the Tallahassee country, expressing the hope that the readers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE will not only give heed to what we have said, but also examine carefully for themselves the statements that have been made in these columns under the auspices of the Clark Syndicate Companies.

We direct special attention to the Farm and Fireside Colony, and to the new town site of "Turner," which is being established in connection with that colony.

SALIENT FACTS ABOUT WESTERN FLORIDA.

As one of a party of three representing the business and editorial departments of this paper, the writer made a trip Southward in October last, with the view of securing reliable data concerning Western Florida and its adaptability for settlement by Northern people—farmers, artisans and others seeking homes, where climatic conditions and agricultural advantages were more favorable for success than in Northern latitudes. En route we stopped at Atlanta, Ga., and visited the Cotton States International Exposition, where we saw abundant evidence of the agricultural resources of Western Florida in the form of a remarkable exhibit of fruits—pears, grapes, plums, peaches and persimmons—besides cotton, hay, tobacco, oats, corn, potatoes (sweet and Irish), tomatoes and a variety of other farm products. This exhibit was not only attractive, but exceedingly interesting and instructive, inasmuch as it afforded us palpable evidence of what the soil of Western Florida was capable of yielding the farmer for his toil. This manifestation of Florida's agricultural and horticultural possibilities was certainly sufficient to satisfy any carping disciple of Diogenes that the soil of Western Florida, for practically illustrating the science of agriculture, was as favorably endowed with natural resources as the soil of any Northern or Western state.

Pursuing our journey from Atlanta, we landed at Tallahassee on the evening of the third day after leaving Chicago. Here we found a special train awaiting our arrival, which conveyed our party to Lanark-on-the-Gulf, where we rested for the night. The next morning, refreshed by a good night's sleep, we took a morning stroll about the grounds of Lanark Inn, with that full measure of enjoyment which picturesque environs always afford. This popular Gulf coast inn is charmingly located, being set as a bright jewel in a cluster of magnolias and balsamic pines which, touched by the gentle breezes from the Gulf stream, fill the atmosphere with the sweetest of ambrosial, health-giving perfumes. Close by the inn is one of the finest springs of water that ever bubbled from the bosom of the earth, which is piped to a reservoir, and thence to every room in the hotel. I am no seer, prophet or prognosticator of future events, but I feel safe in predicting that Lanark-on-the-Gulf will at no distant day enjoy the enviable reputation of being the most popular and fashionable resort in the South. After breakfast, served in true metropolitan style, our special train being ready, we started for Carrabelle, the terminus of the Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad. Here we saw evidences of thrift and prosperity on every hand. The docks were covered with turpentine and rosin, the products of the pine forests, which were being shipped to the trade centers for naval stores, etc., etc., in various parts of the country. During our short stay at Carrabelle, the steamer of the Gulf Terminal & Navigation Co. arrived from Apalachicola, laden with assorted freight and a goodly number of passengers.

Passing from this general description of our trip to the Southern limit of our journey, I will now endeavor to give a few concise and intelligent

SALIENT FACTS ABOUT WESTERN FLORIDA.

Topography, or Surface Configuration. The topography of Middle and Western Florida differs materially from that of any other portion of the state. In Leon and Wakulla Counties it is of an undulating character, but more marked in this respect in Leon than Wakulla. The topography of the Tallahassee country is peculiarly charming. A Northern gentleman who happened to be one of our party on the occasion of a fifteen-mile drive around the

city of Tallahassee, expressed himself to the editor of the *Weekly Floridian* in the following unequivocal language: "I have just returned from a trip to Europe, and have been all over the United States, but I have never seen in all of my travels a lovelier bit of country than the Tallahassee hill section of Florida, nor one susceptible of greater possibilities." I am certain he voiced the sentiments of every member of the party, for the "sweet interchange of hill and valley," as Milton has aptly expressed it, afforded us, as we rode along, vistas of surpassing beauty, involuntarily prompting one to exclaim with the poet,

"Ever charming, ever new,
When will the landscape tire the view?"

Climate. The climate of Florida is comparatively equable. Nearly the entire state is fanued by cool winds from the Gulf stream, which modify and equalize the temperature the greater part of the year. Its environment of vast pine forests and its proximity to the warm waters of the Gulf provide an atmosphere of combined vigor and mildness that is simply unequalled. This is especially true of Leon and Wakulla Counties. It is due to this fact that Florida is fast becoming to the Northern states what Southern France and Italy are to Europe—a national sanatorium and a favorite resort for those suffering from pulmonary diseases. This does not imply that Northern people go to Florida to die; far from it; they go there and secure a new lease of life, and a long one. In evidence of this I call your attention to the fact that Mrs. K. McComb, 368 East Division St., Chicago, being in very poor health, went to Lanark-on-the-Gulf August 4, 1895, and although she remained there but six weeks (returning home September 15th), gained twenty-three pounds and a decided improvement in her general health every way. It is also in evidence that the mortality rate per thousand is lower in Florida than in any other state in the Union, with one single exception only.

Mr. W. H. Harrison, Jr., a former Iowan, in speaking of Florida's summer climate, says: "I went South expecting to find a climate very much hotter than Iowa, but I found it, in the extreme south, very much pleasanter than here. This is one of the hardest things in the South for the Northern man to realize. In going a thousand miles toward the equator, it is only natural to suppose that the summer heat would increase as you go southward, but the fact that sunstrokes are unknown in the South is the best evidence we have to prove the contrary. I think you feel the heat less in the South at any temperature than you do in the North when it is ten degrees lower. Some people think that a Northern man cannot work in the sun there in the summer-time, but it is a mistaken idea, as all the Northern farmers who have moved South work in the field with more comfort through the entire summer than they can in the North." There is no question but what the climate of Florida is all that could be desired.

"The winters are not cruel,
The summers do not blast."

Nature of Soil, Etc. The soil of Western Florida is practically virgin soil, and is generally a rich, reddish loam, with a subsoil of clay, which retains moisture; therefore, the farmer who locates in this "land of flowers" will find that his crops, like stock in a new country, will obtain their food with but little or no personal attention. For over forty years sections of Middle and Western Florida have been under annual cultivation without the use of any fertilizer whatever. I do not believe there is land in any other state in the Union that has been constantly cultivated for nearly half a century without the aid of artificial fructifying elements.

Horticultural Facts. In prosecuting my investigations with reference to the cultivation of fruits, I learned that grapes, pears, peaches, plums, persimmons and figs all do well in Middle and Western Florida. One fruit grower near Tallahassee told the writer that his crop of Le Conte pears last year was over 600 barrels. Small fruits are also very prolific, and with intelligent effort, yield handsome profits to the grower. In Chas. Hallock's "Camp Life in Florida," I find the following pregnant horticultural prediction: "Florida may, at no distant day, grow fruit for half the world, if she can

obtain a sufficiency of capital and labor." The Clark Syndicate Companies, realizing the significance of this prediction, have undertaken to supply the needed capital and labor, therefore it is reasonably sure that Hallock's prediction will become a substantial verity in the near future.

Agricultural Facts. I have already shown that Western Florida is well adapted for growing field, vegetable and garden products. Let me be a little more specific and give you some facts regarding Leon County. A careful examination of the last annual report of the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Florida shows that this county produces large crops of millet, oats, hay, field-peas, corn, cotton, rice, sugar-cane, tobacco, peanuts, sweet and Irish potatoes, beets, tomatoes, cabbage, squashes, egg-plants, cucumbers, beans, cantaloups, watermelons, English peas, etc. There is little beyond these staple products of Leon that the Northern farmer needs or should expect, and simply because they cover the range, and more in some respects, of his farming results in Northern latitudes, besides affording him the advantages which a milder climate bestows.

Dairy Products. There is probably no better field for profitable dairying than in Leon County, Florida, at the present time. I interviewed several successful dairymen near Tallahassee, and they each and all informed me that they found a ready market for every pound of butter and quart of milk they had for sale, and at good prices the year round. With reference to this special form of agricultural work, the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture places Leon County several leagues ahead of any other county in the total number of her milk cows and the aggregate value of her dairy products. Cows find good grazing for fully eight to ten months in the year, and in this respect, as well as in many others, the Leon County dairyman has decided advantages over his Northern competitor.

Building Material for Settlers. Western Florida is well supplied with timber trees of the exogenous and coniferous species, such as live-oak, water-oak, hickory, magnolia, laurel, cypress, pine, etc. In the Tallahassee country building lumber is plentiful and cheap, costing only from \$4.00 to \$10.00 per thousand feet. The Clark Syndicate Companies will furnish from their own sawmills any quantity at the above low prices, selling the same for cash or on instalments.

Florida's Growth in Population. What are the facts concerning Florida's growth in population? Here they are: The per cent of increase of Florida's population as compared with nine Northern states is as follows:

Florida's increase from 1880 to 1890,	45 per cent
Illinois' " " "	24 " "
Indiana's " " "	11 " "
Ohio's " " "	15 " "
Pennsylvania's " " "	23 " "
New York's " " "	18 " "
Wisconsin's " " "	28 " "
Missouri's " " "	24 " "
Michigan's " " "	22 " "
Iowa's " " "	11 " "

As compared with the leading Southern states, the per cent of increase is as follows:

Florida.....	45 per cent
Georgia.....	20 " "
Alabama.....	20 " "
Mississippi.....	14 " "
Arkansas.....	40 " "
North Carolina.....	16 " "
South Carolina.....	16 " "
Louisiana.....	20 " "

This comparative statement regarding Florida's population growth is pretty strong evidence that the state is entering upon a new era of progress and prosperity. Northern people are dispelling prejudice from their minds and awakening to a full realization of the advantages and opportunities offered them in this "land of flowers," where climatic and soil conditions enable the farmer to raise two or three successive crops during the year.

One thing, however, I wish to accentuate with considerable vigor; namely, the reader of this article must not assume for one moment that any section of Florida is a paradise for the tramp, loafer or lazy-bones. There, as well as everywhere, the biblical mandate finds unequivocal application: "In the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat

pread." As the New York *Sun* aptly remarked, "Wood will not come and pile itself in any man's cellar. The man who wants a bright fire on the hearth must take the saw-buck and buck-saw and tackle the wood-pile manfully." This primary condition of life holds good in Florida as well as elsewhere.

But of this I feel sure, you can accomplish in Western Florida three times as much with the same amount of capital as you can in the North, and that, too, with one half the amount of labor required of the Northern farmer.

Summarizing the above-mentioned facts, I deduce these salient advantages:

First, you have a charming climate the year round.

Second, you have the entire year for outdoor work.

Third, you have cheap building material.

Fourth, you have exemption from droughts, cyclones and sunstrokes.

Fifth, you have free fuel.

Sixth, you have milder winters and cooler summers than in the North.

Seventh, you have fully nine months in the year for cultivating crops.

Eighth, you have three crops a year if you want them.

Ninth, you have law and order everywhere and agreeable conditions of life generally.

Consider thoughtfully the above enumerated advantages peculiar to Middle and Western Florida, and I will rest on your judgment as to whether life is worth living in the "land of flowers."

The intelligent farmer from the North, with the above facts before him, will be able to make many profitable calculations and applications.

I beg to append, in this connection, statements of a few prominent citizens of Florida furnished the *Weekly Floridian*, which possess the ring of genuine, honest truth:

Hon. C. B. Collins, Treasurer of the State of Florida and Ex-State Lecturer of the Farmers' Alliance of Florida, says: "I believe any one imbued with ordinary industrial habits can come here and raise the greatest variety of crops with the greatest ease and with less expense, possibly, than can be done in any other section of the United States. I do not know how many crops per annum can be grown on our soils. I have never tried to grow more than two, but I can always get two good crops from lands put under cultivation. Some of the best specimens of truck farm products ever raised anywhere have been grown this year in Leon County; the fruit has been particularly fine. I raised some of the finest Irish potatoes I ever saw. Some of them, as a sample of the crop, I am informed, were sent to Chicago to the offices of the Clark Syndicate by a merchant in town, for exhibition there; in fact, a gentleman from Chicago in this city this summer came to my office especially, as he expressed it, 'to see the man who raised those potatoes.'"

Hon. Milton H. Mabry, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, says: "I am glad to see the attention which is being directed southward, particularly to Florida. The climate of Florida and her fertile soils make the state susceptible of an almost endless variety of agricultural resources of profit."

Hon. W. N. Sheats, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Florida, says: "I have been in over twenty states of the Union, and I know of no more desirable or attractive section of country than Middle Florida. I believe the county of Leon alone susceptible of sustaining a population of a million people in permanent profitable agricultural and industrial pursuits, based upon the product of her soils."

Hon. P. Houstoun, Adjutant-general of the State of Florida (General Houstoun is owner of the Lakeland dairy and stock farm, near Tallahassee), after reading the special literature of the Clark Syndicate, as well as the general advertising matter such as appeared in the last three issues of this paper, says: "I have read the various publications with a great deal of interest. We have everything in soils and climate here that one could wish."

C. HEBER TURNER.

FARM AND FIRESIDE COLONY AND CLARK SYNDICATE LANDS.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

So many questions have been asked us about our Farm and Fireside Colony and the Clark Syndicate lands that we have deemed it wise to answer them all through this issue of the paper.

What is the character of the land of the Farm and Fireside Colony and of the lands of the Clark Syndicate Companies, generally?

The colony is covered with the first growth of yellow pine timber, some of merchantable, sawmill size.

The Clark Syndicate lands, generally speaking, are covered with yellow pine timber, although the company has both improved and unimproved property in Leon, Wakulla and Franklin Counties.

What is the character of the soil?

The soil of the colony lands is what is known as the "first quality of pine land," capable of producing all kinds of vegetables and deciduous fruits, and especially adapted for the raising of tobacco.

In and about the Tallahassee region the soil is a rich, reddish loam, very fertile and productive. In the extreme south of the companies' holdings the land is sandy, but, with fertilization, capable of producing in great variety vegetables and fruits. A full description of this soil appeared in Mr. Elliot's letter on page 14 of the December 15th issue of the *FARM AND FIRESIDE*.

Is good water to be had?

The city of Tallahassee is supplied by an artesian well with as fine water as can be had anywhere in the world. Throughout the companies' lands there are a number of very fine springs, some of wonderful medicinal qualities, and it is a general rule that good water can be had at an average depth of twenty feet.

What is the cost of lumber, of building houses, etc.?

The average price of lumber (including rough and dressed) is, all around, \$8 per thousand feet at the mill. This enables any one to put up a house very cheaply. One of our settlers built himself a place of three rooms at a cost of \$100, not including his own labor. A good four-room house, ceiled inside, white-washed on the outside, built of plain boards and battened, with a little porch in front, can be put up for \$350; a two-room house will cost considerably less—\$350 should build as good a house as any one would require.

What are the chances for laboring men, carpenters, mechanics, etc.?

The common farm labor is mostly done by colored labor at from 75 cents to \$1 per day. They work by the month for \$10 and their "keep," having a little plot of ground for their own use.

With reference to the question of general help, the country is, in a measure, undeveloped, and there is not now such a field of labor as exists in the North. Yet all who have gone down recently have found plenty to do, and with the natural influx of settlers, work can be found. We think that with spirit, energy and hustle, added to the desire of success, a man would find little difficulty in obtaining something to do. A good living can always be had from the farm, and the hunting and fishing afford a farmer a fine chance for recreation and enjoyment, if desired.

How about the climate?

We have no unusual extremes of heat or cold. In winter we have a few frosts; in summer the thermometer has never been known to get above 96, and the average temperature is much lower than this. The nights are cool and enjoyable. There is ample rainfall, well distributed through the twelve months of the year. The state stands second in the rate of mortality. Yellow-fever or other contagious diseases have never been known in our section.

Schools and churches?

Tallahassee is as well supplied with schools and churches as any state in the South. The grades of the schools are as high as those of any schools in the North. Most every religious denomination is represented. Throughout the counties, Leon, Wakulla and Franklin, are scattered county schools and churches, all good.

Price of stock?

The price of horses runs from \$50 up, and good horses can be bought for \$100. Mules of the best class cost from \$100 to \$125; cows from \$15 to \$40, according to the breed. Most of the work is done by mules, as they stand the work better.

Excursions?

The Clark Syndicate Companies have frequent excursions to the property, and if the readers of this paper desire to know more particularly about them, they can ascertain by communicating directly with the company.

LETTER FROM MR. W. L. TAYLOR ON POULTRY RAISING IN THE TALLAHASSEE REGION.

TO THE EDITOR OF *FARM AND FIRESIDE*, Springfield, Ohio.

My Dear Sir:—It may be interesting to many of our Northern friends to know that all kinds of domestic poultry thrive better, lay more eggs, and eggs are more fertile in this section of the South than any other portion of America. The reason for these facts is the congenial climate, perfect healthfulness, and great variety and quantity of natural food and grit produced everywhere in abundance. Turkeys, geese, ducks, guinea-fowls, pea-fowls, chickens and pigeons live, thrive and multiply without attention or feeding, where they have an unrestricted range. Of course, fowls left to their own resources in this way degenerate in size, become half wild, and are not worth so much on the market as when they are

properly cared for. Owing to our extensive coast and shipping, and the great number of winter tourists, we have a home market, at good prices, for all choice poultry raised.

Our mild climate precludes the necessity for close buildings, and the cheap material procurable reduces the expense of buildings, yards, etc., to a very insignificant sum. The earth and woodland are teeming with grass seeds and insects (which are harmless alike to poultry and vegetation), which combined make perfect feed at no cost during all the warm months. Millet, sorghum, sunflowers, etc., yield from thirty to seventy bushels of small grain per acre. Waste and cull vegetables also furnish good, wholesome feed. Two to three hundred per cent profit on the capital invested in poultry, after paying for their feed and care, is about the usual return.

Gardening, fruit growing and poultry raising may be combined, making a pleasant and light occupation, and one certain of fair returns. Semi-invalid victims of the rigorous climate of the Northwest may find health, comfort and independence in the woods of Florida, and by the investment of small capital, reap rich returns. The able-bodied husbandman will find conditions favorable for all lines of agriculture and cheap, productive lands. The capitalist will find undeveloped resources for good investment, and all classes will find a pleasant land, good laws, good neighbors and low taxes.

Very truly yours, W. L. TAYLOR.

TOBACCO RAISING.

We have, in a previous letter, spoken of the peculiar advantages which the Tallahassee hill country offers for the raising of tobacco, and in this line it may be well to give our readers the returns which Mr. G. W. Saxon, of Tallahassee, has received from some tobacco he has recently sold. The shipment of tobacco by Mr. Saxon was made from every grade of tobacco in his barn, and the returns are as follows:

Grade No. 1, per pound.....	40 cents
" No. 2, "	30 "
" No. 3, "	25 "
" No. 4, "	20 "
" No. 5, "	10 "
" No. 6, "	9 "
" No. 7, "	8 "
" No. 8, "	6 "
" No. 9, "	5 "
" No. 10, "	4 "

About half the crop grown by Mr. Saxon grades Nos. 2, 3 and 5, and the average price is about eighteen cents. Grades Nos. 6 to 10 inclusive, it is explained, can be easily avoided by the proper handling of the crop. In this instance, Mr. Saxon had only one experienced tobacco grower employed, and it was impossible for him to superintend the cutting of every stalk of the tobacco, and in consequence much of it was cut too green. This, Mr. Saxon says, he will avoid this year by having more experienced men.

After the holidays, Mr. Saxon expects to receive much better prices for the remainder of his crop. This expectation is based upon the authority of the warehousemen at Danville, the point shipped to, who state that prices will range upward after that time, when, as a matter of course, receipts will be far less.

It will be remembered that Mr. Saxon's tobacco is of the chewing variety, which grows much more abundant than the cigar tobacco, and at an average of eighteen cents per pound, he thinks he has good reason to feel jubilant over his crop. He cured 1,000 pounds to the acre, at a net cost of \$50, and if he sells the whole crop at eighteen cents average, he has a profit of \$130 to the acre.

The above statement is taken from a letter in the *Tallahasseean*, and is authentic.

WHEN AND WHAT TO PLANT IN FLORIDA.

In Florida, one peculiarity of its soil and climate is that the period of planting any special crop covers weeks and sometimes months, so that one can plant almost any time and feel reasonably sure of a crop. Still,

any one knows that it is always best to have a crop in as early as the season will admit. The following summary, showing when and what to plant, has been prepared under the authority of the State Board of Agriculture, and gives to all who may consult it a comprehensive idea of just what to do and the proper time to do it:

January: Plant Irish potatoes, peas, beets, turnips, cabbage and all hardy or semi-hardy vegetables; make hotbeds for pushing the more tender plants, such as melons, tomatoes, okra, egg-plants, etc.; set out fruit and other trees and shrubbery.

February: Keep planting for a succession, same as in January; in addition, plant vines of all kinds, shrubbery and fruit-trees of all kinds, snap-beans, corn; bed sweet potatoes for draws and slips. Oats may also be still sown, as they are in previous months.

March: Corn, oats and planting of February may be continued; transplant tomatoes, egg-plants, melons, beans and vines of all kinds. Mulberries and blackberries are now ripening.

April: Plant as in March, except Irish potatoes, kohlrabi and turnips; continue to transplant tomatoes, okra, egg-plants; sow millet, corn, cow-peas for fodder; plant the butterbean, lady-peas; dig Irish potatoes. Onions, beets and usual early vegetables should be plenty for table.

May: Plant sweet potatoes for draws in beds; continue planting corn for table; snap-beans, peas and cucumbers ought to be well forward for use; continue planting okra, egg-plants, pepper and butter-beans.

June: The heavy planting of sweet potatoes and cow-peas is now in order. Irish potatoes, tomatoes and a great variety of table vegetables are now ready; as, also, plums, early peaches and grapes.

July: Sweet potatoes and cow-peas are safe to plant, the rainy season being favorable. Grapes, peaches and figs are in full season.

August: Finish up planting sweet potatoes and cow-peas; sow cabbage, cauliflower, turnips for fall planting; plant kohlrabi and rutabagas; last of the month plant a few Irish potatoes and beans.

September: Now is the time to commence for the true winter garden, the garden which is commenced in the North in April and May. Plant the whole range of vegetables except sweet potatoes; set out asparagus, onion-sets and strawberry-plants.

October: Plant same as last month; put in garden-peas, set out cabbage-plants; dig sweet potatoes; sow oats, rye, etc.

November: A good month for garden; continue to plant and transplant, same as for October; sow oats, barley and rye for winter pasturage or crops; dig sweet potatoes, house or bank them; make sugar and syrup.

December: Clear up generally; fence, ditch, manure and sow and plant hardy vegetables; plant, set out fruit-trees and shrubbery; keep a sharp lookout for an occasional frost; a slight protection will prevent injury.

It will be seen from the above that there is no month in the year but what fresh and growing vegetables can be had for sale and domestic use. This latter is a large item in expense of living. The soil is so easily worked, so easily cultivated, that most of the garden work can be performed by even delicate ladies and young children of both sexes. Indeed, most Florida gardeners are so made; no frozen clods to break or rocks to remove. A garden once put in condition, properly managed, will produce abundantly and constantly. The rapid growth assures large and tender vegetables, early and luscious fruit. A single season will afford strawberries for the setting out, ripe figs from two-year-old cuttings, grapes the second year, peaches the third and fourth years.

CLEARING CLARK SYNDICATE LANDS.

Ordinary pine lands, such as ours, can be cleared at a cost of from \$4 to \$6 per acre. For truck and small fruits it is best to thoroughly clear it; for ordinary farm crops and fruit-trees the pines may be belted, or "deadened," and that at very small expense, and the underbrush, where it exists, can be cleared away. To prepare the land this way should cost from \$2 to \$3 per acre, and an industrious agriculturist, with such help as would be required to operate a small farm, would have no difficulty in clearing his own land without its interfering materially with the cultivation of his crops, and at no cost except that of his own labor. As the farms are brought under a separate system of cultivation, and the fruit-trees begin to bear, the cost of caring for them would decrease somewhat, and the value of the crops increase.

Florida Excursion from Chicago

OUR Colony Excursion to Tallahassee will be about the 4th of February. We are receiving many inquiries as to time, rates, etc. A round-trip rate will be sent by letter to inquirers. The route and price will be given later. It will be a splendid time to leave the cold North and go down to the land of sunshine and flowers. From Tallahassee, Florida, the excursionists will be taken over the line of the Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad, direct to Lanark on the Gulf of Mexico.

For full particulars address

CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES,

Care *FARM AND FIRESIDE*,

1643 Monadnock Block,
Chicago, Ill.

—OR—
108 Times Building,
New York City.

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Pearl glass, pearl top, tough glass.

RUBBER STAMPS. Best made. Immense Catalogue Free to agents. The G. A. HARPER MFG. Co., Cleveland, O.

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\$10 A DAY TO AGENTS! Any one who wants to get rich and who has a little enterprise can secure \$10 a day in the Dish Washer business. It is booming now. Everybody wants a Dish Washer nowadays. One agent cleared \$20 every day for a year; a good chance; best Dish Washer made; no soliciting; Dish Washers sold at home; a permanent position in town, city or country. One million to be sold. A wide-awake hustler can clear \$15 to \$20 a day easy; washes and dries in two minutes. Climax Mfg. Co., 51 Starr Ave., Columbus, O.

Will \$500 Help You Out? If so, you can have it! We offer you the Sole Agency for an article that is Wanted in Every Home and Indispensable in Every Office, something that SELLS AT SIGHT. Other articles sell rapidly at Double the Price, though not answering the purpose half so well. You can make from \$500 to \$700 in three months, introducing it, after which it will bring A Steady, Liberal Income, if properly attended to. Ladies do as well as men, in town or country. Don't Miss This Chance. Write at once to J. W. JONES, Manager, Springfield, Ohio.

Smiles.

RECOMPENSE.

In winter when it's snowing
And the storms are wildly blowing,
And all the earth is covered o'er with robes of
ice and sleet,
Oh, then our hearts are mellow
With compassion for the fellow
Who through the night is tortured with his
Wife's Cold Feet.

But when the days are torrid
And the nights are simply horrid,
And sweltering souls must lie awake and
battle with the heat,
Then he has a real bonanza
(Pardon the extravagance)—
Has the husband who is favored with his
Wife's Cold Feet.

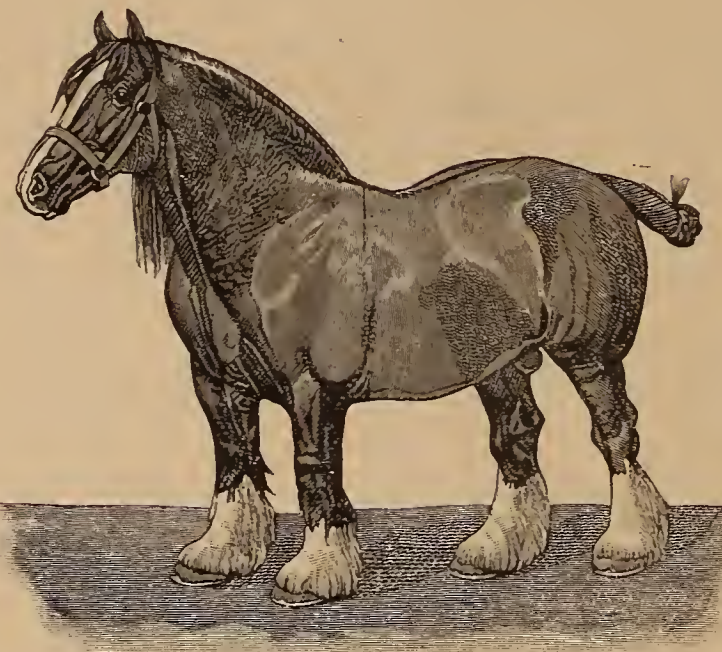
A PUBLIC SERVICE.

It is said Mr. Pullman pays his daughter ten thousand dollars a year for naming the company's cars. Life considers this a wanton waste of a corporation's wealth. We will perform this service for much less money, and beg leave to submit a few samples of the names we would suggest for Mr. Pullman's sleeping and buffet cars:

Insomnia.	Snoriana.	Rockipillo.
Cinderana.	Overchorgia.	Cheekinigga.
Odorifera.	Coldfeetia.	Bedbuggia.
Bigtippia.	Hotasheolia.	Coldgrubbia.
Stuffiana.	Draughtiana.	Thnmbsoopia.
	Badeggia.	—Life.

HANOVER.

Hanover is a handsome chestnut, forty-two years old the third of last December. He stands twenty-six hands high, and is equipped with a rotary pump and double compound-pressure fetlocks. His withers are unwrung, and, as will be seen by our portrait, he is of the trim and graceful build which invariably marks the thoroughbred race-horse.



HANOVER.
Record: 11:13½ (seven furlongs).

His pedigree is perfect, and he comes from high-priced stock, his first sire being the horse for which Richard III. offered a kingdom, with no takers. On his father's side, he is a distant relative of the horse which figured at the siege of Troy. His dam is Saw Horse, she by Clothes Horse, she by Horse-radish. Hanover's performances are well known to the sporting world. Last year he won the Blackwell's island handicap in a canter, beating a large field and his owner's friends.—Life.

TROUBLE WITH HIS HEART.

A slender little old man, with horny hands and a grimy face, dropped into a seat on a Market street car, one night recently, says the San Francisco Post. He placed his lunch-basket between his feet, mopped his perspiring face with a bandanna handkerchief, and leaned back as if exhausted from his day's work.

Suddenly he started, clasped his hands over his heart and groaned. Several passengers looked at him curiously. He was evidently suffering intensely.

"What is the matter?" inquired the man next to him.

"Oh, oh! it's my heart," he groaned. His face was contorted with agony, and he writhed and moaned piteously.

"Is there a physician in the car?" shouted an alarmed passenger.

The passengers crowded about the sufferer.

"Stand back and give him air!" yelled the conductor. "Stand back!"

"Ob-h-h-ngh!"

The man's groan ended in a shriek of agony. "Let me see what I can do for him," remarked a stranger. "I'm a physician."

The crowd gave way; the sufferer slipped from the seat to the floor of the car, and lay there writhing and groaning.

"Oh, it's my heart! Oh-h-h!"

The physician stooped over and commenced to loosen the sufferer's clothing.

"Sball I ring for an ambulance?" inquired the conductor.

"No; you'd better turn in an alarm of fire," said the physician, and he threw on the floor of the car the stubby clay pipe that had set fire to the old man's vest-pocket.

HE TOOK THEM.

Among stories told by country doctors, this one certainly deserves a place. The doctor had prescribed for an Irishman, and visited his cabin the next day to see how he was getting on.

"Well, Patrick, are you better to-day?" he asked, pleasantly.

"Oh, murther, no; I'm worse, with turrible pain in me innards!"

"Why, didn't you take the pills I ordered?"

"I did that, an' I'm worse; but maybe the cover hasn't come off the box yet!"

BLESSED EVEN THE GAMBLER.

A. M. Cleland, of Dayton, Ohio, tells a good story of a gambler from that city who has made a large fortune out of a saloon and faro-room. Last winter he was in Florida with some friends, and visited a church where a few poor colored people were engaged in worship. The roof leaked, and the pastor prayed most fervently that the Lord would provide a way to repair the roof. Then a collection was started, the pastor saying that special blessings would be asked for all contributors. One good brother put in a dime.

"A dime from Brudder Jones. De Lo'd bress Brudder Jones."

Then a quarter was received.

"Brudder Johnson a quatah. De Lo'd bress Brudder Johnson."

The collector reached the gambler, who had made a big winning the night before, and flash-

Superfluous Hair Permanently Removed.

No matter if you have tried everything else on earth and failed. We positively guarantee NOHAIR to destroy every root and render future growth absolutely impossible. Harmless as cream. Treatment requires but five minutes. Price \$1.00, mailed secure from observation. Send 4c. stamps for book and sealed particulars in plain envelope. NOHAIR CHEMICAL CO., Dep't B, St. Louis, Mo.

FREE. Send 5c. return envelope. Slight of Hand exposed. List of 500 gits. Album of cards. Send 5c. stamp for postage. Address Banner Card Co., Cadiz, Ohio.

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\$8 Per 100 paid for distributing samples of washing fluids. Send 6c. stamps and secure territory. A. W. SCOTT, Cohoes, N. Y.

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I WANT A MAN In every city or township to look after my business, on salary or commission; steady work and liberal pay the year round. One man cleared \$140.45 last week. Places for a few ladies. Don't delay or bother to send stamps, but write at once to J. W. JONES, Springfield, Ohio.

Golden Laxative Coffee CURES CONSTIPATION And many liver and kidney diseases. One package lasts as long as two pounds of pure coffee. It is composed of Coffee and Cereals. Price only 30 cents per package, or four packages for \$1.00, prepaid, by express. Agents wanted to sell to Stores, or Houses. GOLDEN LAXATIVE COFFEE CO., Ayer, Mass.

PARKER'S HAIR BALM Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists

FAT FOLKS reduced 15 lbs. a month, any one can make remedy at home. Miss M. Ainley, Supply, Ark., says, "I lost 60 lbs. and feel splendid." No starving. No sickness. Sample box, etc., 4c. HALL & CO., B., Box 404, St. Louis, Mo.

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40 Cent Patterns for 10 Cents

Any FOUR Patterns, and this paper one year, 60 cents, post-paid.

These patterns retail in fashion bazaars and stores for twenty-five to forty cents each, but in order to increase the demand for our paper among strangers, and to make it more valuable than ever to our old friends, we offer them to the lady readers of our paper for the remarkably low price of only 10 Cents Each.

The patterns are all of the very latest New York styles, and are unequalled for style, accuracy of fit, simplicity and economy. For twenty-six years these patterns have been used the country over. Full descriptions and directions—as the number of yards of material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment

to go by. These patterns are complete in every particular, there being a separate pattern for every single piece of the dress. Your order will be filled the same day it is received.

You can order any of the patterns offered in the back numbers of this paper.

For ladies, give BUST measure in inches. For SKIRT pattern, give WAIST measure in inches. For misses, boys, girls or children, give both BREAST measure in inches and age in years. Order patterns by their numbers.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

To get BUST and BREAST measure, put the tape measure ALL of the way around the body, over the dress close under the arms.

Price of each pattern, 10 cents.

Postage one cent EXTRA on skirt, tea-gown and other heavy patterns.



No. 6601.—LADIES' PLAIN WAIST. 10c.
Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust.



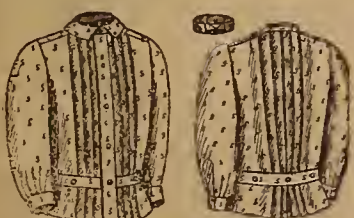
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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.



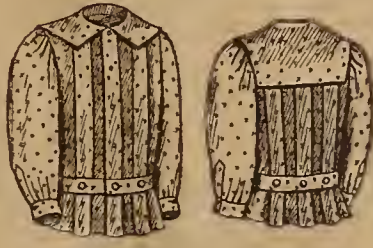
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Sizes, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.



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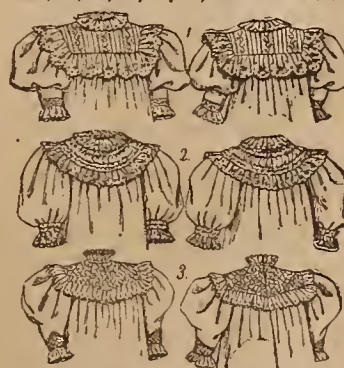


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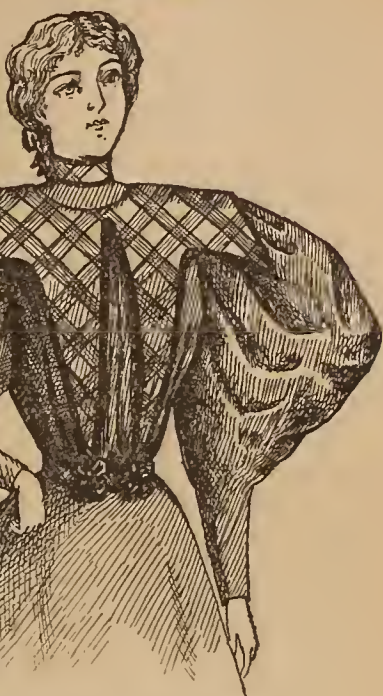
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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 46 waist.



No. 6605.—LADIES' SLEEVES. All three for 10 cents.
Sizes, 32, 36 and 40 inches bust.



No. 6614.—CHILD'S YOKES AND SLEEVES. All three for 10 cents.
Sizes, 1 and 2 years.



No. 6590.—MISSSES' WAIST. 10 cents.
Sizes, 10, 12, 14 and 16 years.



No. 6598.—LADIES' WAIST. 10 cents.
Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.
No. 6563.—LADIES' SKIRT. 11 cents.
Sizes, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches waist.



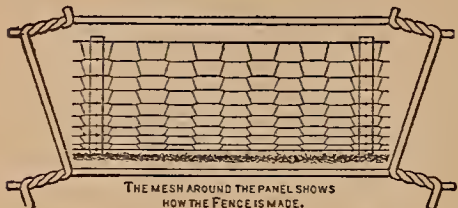
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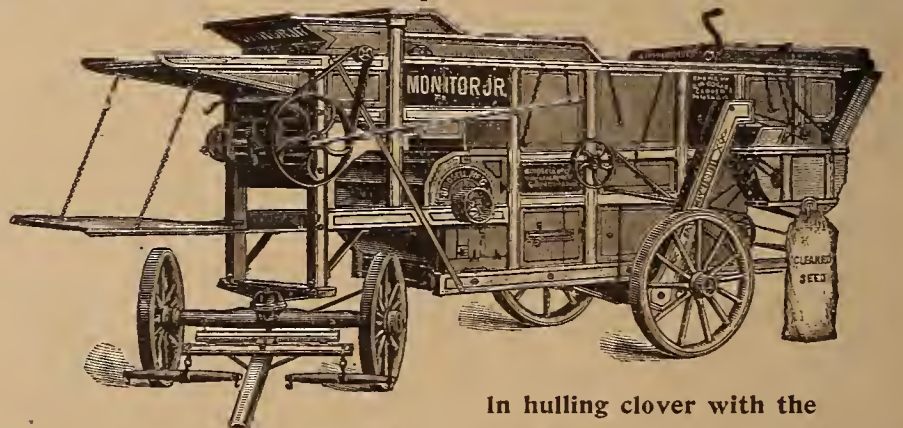
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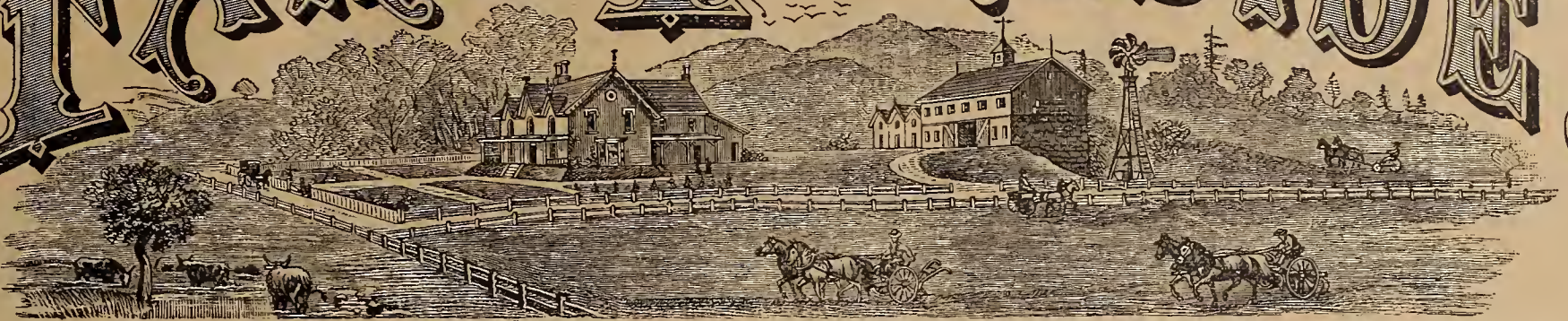
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VOL. XIX. NO. 9. FEBRUARY 1, 1896. TERMS { 50 CENTS A YEAR 24 NUMBERS.

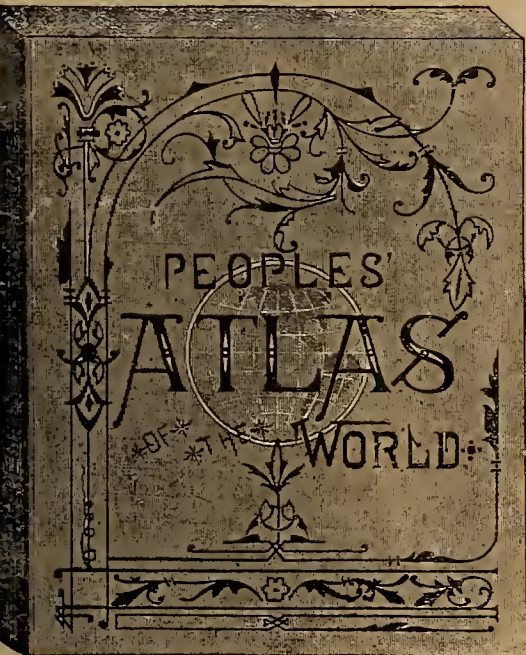
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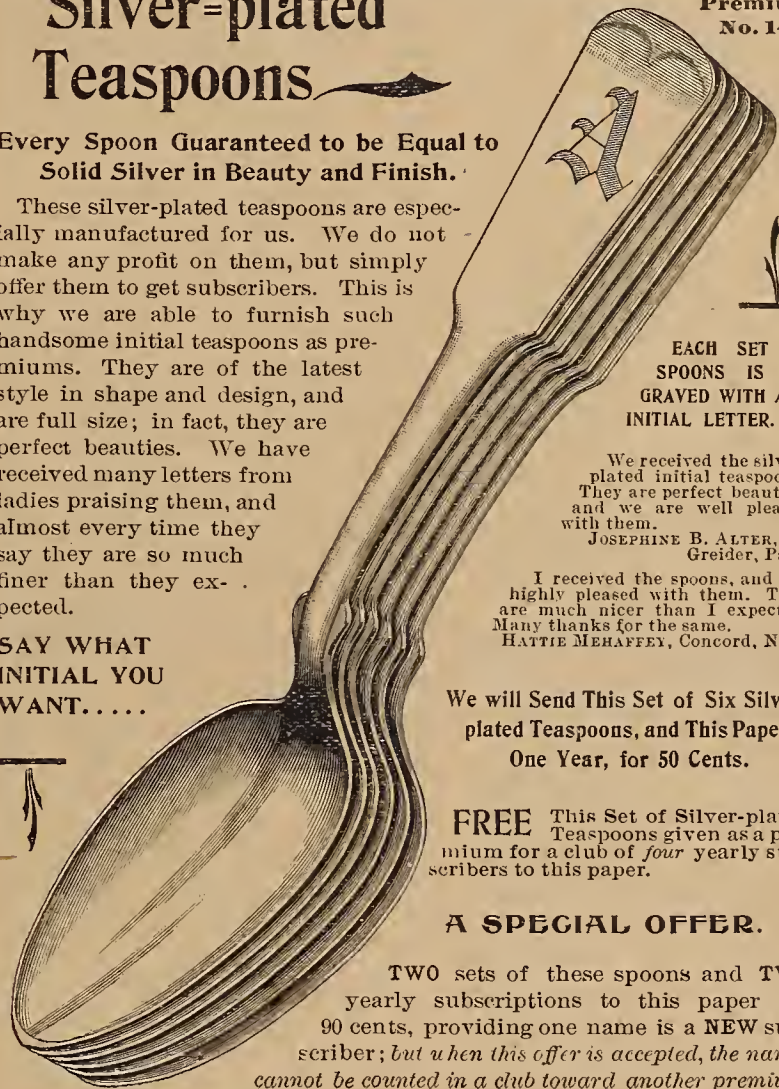
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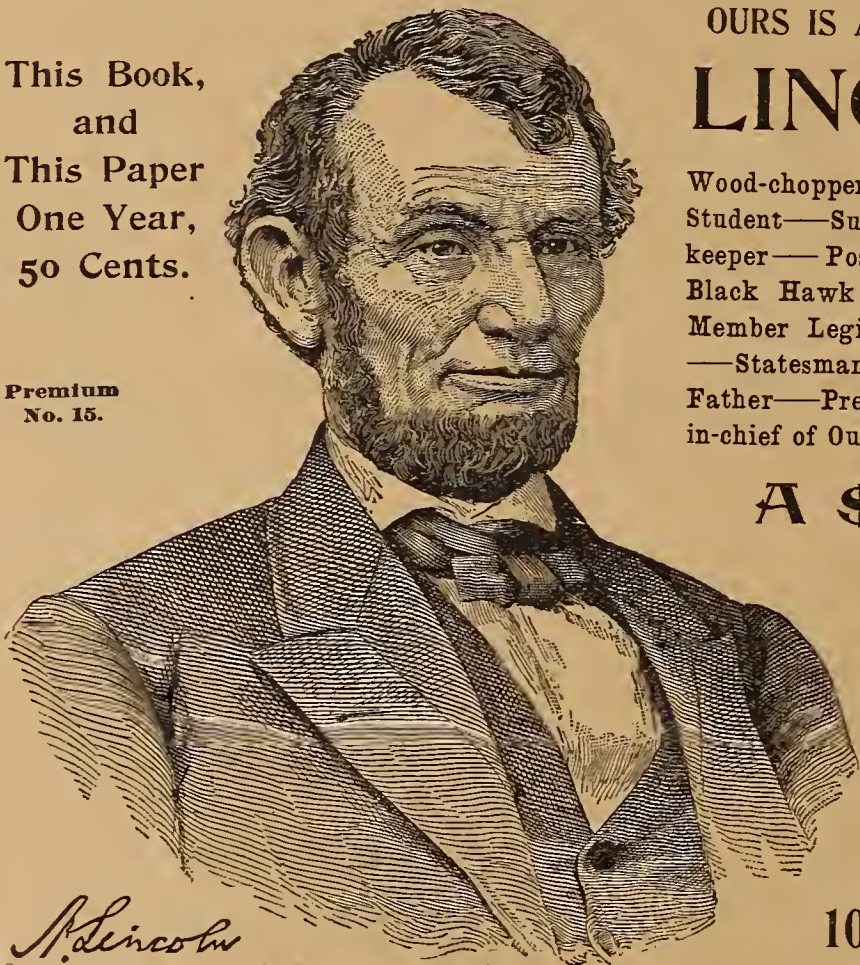
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This Paper
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LIFE OF LINCOLN would be cheap at	\$2.00
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ONE of the resolutions adopted by the Ohio agricultural convention at the recent annual session, at Columbus, reads as follows:

"In view of the large and constantly increasing use of shoddy and other fraudulent substitutes in the manufacture of yarus and fabrics; of the injustice this imposes upon the innocent purchasers and the depressing effect this displacing of almost 100,000,000 pounds of wool has upon the wool-growing industry, we urge upon the legislature, at its present session, the passage of a law requiring all manufactures purporting to be of wool to be labeled by the manufacturer with the kind of materials and the per cent of each employed in such manufacture, and to be subject to an inspection appointed by the state."

During the ten months ending October 31, 1895, the imports of shoddy (rags, noils and wastes) into the United States amounted to 17,824,008 pounds, of the value of \$2,360,673. During the corresponding period of 1893, the imports of shoddy were 221,707 pounds, of the value of \$70,610. As one pound of shoddy takes the place of three pounds of unwashed wool, the increase of shoddy imports in ten months only, under the tariff of 1894, displaced more than 50,000,000 pounds of good wool. Both the producers of wool and the purchasers of woollens can justly demand the prohibition of these imports of foreign rags and their use as a fraudulent substitute for wool in the manufacture of cloth. Much as the wool-grower suffers from shoddy competition, the wearer of shoddy goods suffers more. Its apparent cheapness is a delusion. Their wearing qualities are so inferior to those of genuine goods that his annual expenditure for clothing is largely increased.

But much more than a prohibitive tariff is needed to destroy shoddy competition and protect consumers against frauds. Imports of shoddy are largely exceeded by the home product. Together they amount, it is estimated, to over 100,000,000 pounds annually, and supplant the use of the wool of 40,000,000 sheep. The effectual remedy is in the line of inspection and marking proposed in the foregoing resolution.

THE Department of Agriculture gives the following estimates of the area, product and yield per acre of the principal crops of the United States:

	ACRES.	BUSHEL.	YIELD.
Corn.....	28,075,803	2,151,139,000	26.2
Winter wheat..	22,609,322	261,242,000	11.5
Spring wheat..	11,438,010	205,861,000	18.
Total wheat....	34,047,332	467,103,000	13.7
Oats.....	27,848,406	824,444,000	29.6
Rye.....	1,890,345	27,210,000	14.4
Barley.....	3,299,973	87,373,000	26.4
Buckwheat.....	763,277	15,341,000	20.1
Potatoes.....	2,954,952	297,237,000	100.6
Hay.....	44,206,453	*47,078,541	1.06

*Tons.

Estimated farm price and value:

	PER BUSHEL.	VALUE.
Corn.....	26.4 cents	\$567,509,000
Wheat.....	50.9	237,939,000
Oats.....	19.9	163,655,000
Rye.....	44.	11,965,000
Barley.....	33.7	29,312,000
Buckwheat.....	45.2	6,936,000
Potatoes.....	25.6	78,985,000
Hay.....	\$8.35 per ton	393,186,000

The foregoing figures represent market prices at points of shipment nearest the farm. The cost of transportation over wagon-roads should be deducted from them to get the true farm prices. In the aggregate, the cost of hanlage on common roads is enormous. From a statement made by the office of road inquiry in the

"On that date there were 178,708.55 miles of line, an increase during the year of 2,247.48 miles. There were 1,924 separate corporations, an increase of 34 over the previous year. Of these, 945 maintained operating accounts, 805 were subsidiary companies, 98 were private roads, and 76 were not operated during the year. The movement toward consolidation on the base of mileage involved was greater than in the preceding year; 15 roads, representing 1,734.64 miles, were merged; 22 roads, representing 2,351.99 miles, were reorganized, and 14 roads, representing 1,590.34 miles, were consolidated. The number of roads having an operated mileage of 1,000 miles or over was 44, and these roads operated 56.30 per cent of the total railways. The capitalization of roads filing reports was \$10,796,473,813, or \$62,951 per mile. The number of passengers carried was 540,688,199, and the number of tons of freight moved was 638,186,553; both these items show a decrease as compared with the previous year. Gross earnings were \$1,073,361,797, a decrease of 12.07 per cent. Operating expenses were \$731,414,322, a decrease of 11.66 per cent. Net earnings were \$341,947,475, a decrease of \$50,883,100 from the previous year. Income from other sources was \$142,816,805, which, added to net earnings, made the amount available for fixed charges and dividends \$484,764,280. Fixed charges were \$429,008,310, dividends were \$95,515,226, and other payments were \$6,092,038, leaving a deficit from the operations of the year of \$45,851,294 as compared with a surplus of \$8,117,745 in the previous year.

"A preliminary income account for the year ending June 30, 1895, including the returns from 650 roads, and covering the operations of 164,529.38 miles of line, is also included in the report. The gross earnings

idends paid by the same roads in the previous year was \$61,504,785."

FOR about a century the Boers, or Dutch farmers of South Africa, have been struggling against British rule. The love of liberty has led them a thousand miles from the original Dutch settlements at Cape Town. After Cape Colony passed from the dominion of Holland to Great Britain, the Boers, in large numbers, migrated northeastward to the territory beyond the Orange river. When that fell under British control, they crossed the Vaal river and founded the Transvaal, or South African Republic. British aggression never stops. It was checked, for a time, by the Boer victories in the Transvaal war of 1880-81. The most notable event of this war was the battle of Majuba Hill, where 130 Boers scaled a steep mountain and routed 400 British soldiers from a strong position. By formal treaty, Great Britain then acknowledged the full independence of the Boers in all the affairs of their country, except its foreign relations.

In the Transvaal are the richest gold-fields ever discovered. During the past few years the development of the mines has caused such an immigration that the Uitlanders, or outsiders, now outnumber the Boers four to one. The Uitlanders have been mining, constructing railways, building cities, paying the greater part of the taxes, and clamoring for a voice in the government of the country. The Boers refuse to imperil their dearly bought independence by granting the franchise to the Uitlanders. The latter, being largely British and in the majority, would vote the republic under the control of the English government. Taxation without representation is the chief grievance of the Uitlanders; independence is the defense of the Boers.

North and west of the Transvaal is a territory exploited by the South Africa British Chartered Company, under the administration of Dr. Jameson. To assist the Uitlanders of Johannesburg in their planned uprising to overthrow the Boer government, several hundred British troops, under command of Dr. Jameson, recently invaded the republic. They were intercepted by the Boers, defeated with great loss of life, and made prisoners. The invasion being a failure, the British government promptly disavowed responsibility. If the conspiracy had succeeded, England would now have another colony.

Although of prime importance only to a small state in South Africa, this affair stirred the world, and threatened for a time to involve Europe in a great war. Emperor William, of Germany, sent the following message to President Kruger:

"I express my sincere congratulations that, supported by your people, and without appealing for the help of friendly powers, you have succeeded by your own energetic action against the armed bands which invaded your country as disturbers of the peace, and have thus been enabled to restore peace and safeguard the independence of your country against attacks from outside."

Accepting this as a challenge, England has made "heap big talk" and an ostentatious display of naval strength and activity, but the war clouds seem to be dissolving.

Department of Agriculture, it appears that the agricultural industry of the United States pays annually about one third the total value of its products for hauling these products over the common roads to shipping-points. This excessive cost, borne wholly by farmers, is largely due to bad roads, and it is claimed two thirds of it might be saved by road improvement.

THE ninth annual report of the interstate commerce commission gives the following statistics of railways in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1894:

of these roads for this period were \$1,003,022,853, or \$6,096 per mile, a decrease of \$13 per mile; operating expenses were \$677,667,635, or \$4,119 per mile, a decrease of \$44 per mile, and net earnings were \$325,355,218 as compared with net earnings of \$320,137,670 for the same roads in the previous year, an increase of \$31 per mile. Passenger receipts fell off \$177 per mile, while freight receipts show a gain of \$149 per mile. Total net earnings and income, including income from other sources, were \$358,412,461. Fixed charges and other deductions were \$336,351,946, and dividends were \$53,135,545, leaving a deficit from the operations of the year of \$31,075,030. The amount of div-



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FARM AND FIRESIDE,

Springfield, Ohio.

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Use of Fertilizers. A reader in Port Walthall, Va., writes that for several years he has raised early potatoes for market, and that he finds it profitable to use commercial fertilizers for them. Last year he used a special potato fertilizer guaranteed to contain six per cent each of ammonia, phosphoric acid and potash, and costing him \$36.50 per ton. This was used at the rate of about 800 pounds per acre. On a few trial rows he applied about 400 pounds when the potatoes were nearly in bloom, and this application fully doubled the yield. Mapes' potato manure, guaranteed analysis 4½ per cent ammonia, 8 per cent phosphoric acid and 6 per cent potash, costs him \$45. Bone-meal (nearly 25 per cent phosphoric acid and 4½ per cent ammonia) would cost \$27.50 per ton; sulphate of potash, three cents a pound; acid phosphate (10 per cent available phosphoric acid), \$12 per ton. He thinks he can mix a fertilizer of bone-meal, sulphate of potash and nitrate of soda, which would be much cheaper than any of the special potato manures; but he wishes to know whether raw bone-meal will act quickly enough for potatoes, and what mixture would be most likely to give best results at the least cost.

Complete Manures Needed. Questions of this kind are not easily answered in a definite way. Soils vary in their constituents. In some cases single food elements (say nitrogen alone, or phosphorus, or potash alone), or perhaps a combination of two, would do just as well as a complete ration. But who can tell without repeated experiments? The only safe plan in average cases, evidently, is to apply a complete and balanced ration, and the proportions offered in our special potato manures, say 4 (nitrogen) to 6 or 8 (phosphoric acid) to 6 or 8 (potash), are the ones which experience and oft-repeated trials point out as safest and most certain of good results. The experience of the Ohio experiment station with fertilizers may be exceptional in some respects, the results obtained from their use not being encouraging in a general way; but the complete fertilizers gave at least some sort of satisfaction. That station has finally settled upon a standard fertilizer, as follows: 160 pounds of superphosphate, 160 pounds of nitrate of soda and 100 pounds of potash. If the potash is in the form of

muriate or high-grade sulphate, the mixture would be very strong in potash (11 per cent).

The Proof of the Pudding. Our friend in Virginia has something on which to rely, however; namely, his satisfactory experience with a certain fertilizer. The plant-foods in that fertilizer, at regular rates, are worth nearly \$30 per ton; and while he pays more for it, yet he finds that 400 pounds of it, applied at the time when the vines were almost in bloom, nearly doubled the crop. I don't know why such a late application should be more effective than an earlier one, and probably the effects would have been just the same had these 400 pounds been applied at planting-time. Yet if I had a fertilizer that doubles my potato yields, I would be rather slow to discard it for another untried mixture, even if cheaper. The proof of the pudding is the eating thereof. In the meantime, however, I would try the cheaper home mixtures, holding about to the same proportion in the percentages of the plant-food ingredients.

Value of Bone-meal. Some of our fertilizer manufacturers make great claims on account of the fact that the phosphoric acid in their fertilizers is derived mostly or entirely from bone. On the other hand, our scientific authorities all agree that "available" phosphoric acid derived from rock is just as good as that derived from bone. For this reason, and on account of its cheapness, I use acid phosphate in preference to other forms of superphosphate. The phosphoric acid in bone-meal is not considered to be soluble ("available"). Yet I have a high idea of its value, and use the finely ground meal or dust with the full confidence that the crops will be able to make use of it in short order. Possibly a quick-growing crop, such as radishes, or lettuce, or early potatoes, etc., may not derive the full benefit from the applications, but according to my experience, they derive some, and usually enough to pay. Surely, finely ground raw bone is far ahead of ground rock. The *Rural New-Yorker* (just received) says on this point: "A bone is a porous, organic body, giving access to the roots of plants, while the ground rock is a solid grain—the roots feeding, if at all, only on the outer surface. Thus, while chemically the same as the rock, the bone, if as finely ground, may be the more available, since the roots can make a better use of it. When experiment stations rank ground bone that will not dissolve in water or weak acid as no more valuable than ground rock that will not thus dissolve, they make a mistake, because that is not a fair test of its availability. The plants themselves know better, and will show a vast difference when fed a given amount of phosphoric acid in fine, raw bone, and the same amount of 'bone phosphate' in the form of fine rock. Practically, all the phosphoric acid in finely ground bone is available." All this I will indorse without qualification. But don't confound this raw ground rock with acid phosphate. The latter, which is the ground rock treated with sulphuric acid, is just as good (according to its contents of available phosphoric acid) as bone-black dissolved in sulphuric acid. Finally, let me say that for quick-growing crops I would, after all, prefer a mixture of acid phosphate and bone-meal to the latter alone.

A Fertilizer Bulletin. The New York experiment station, at Geneva, has just issued a bulletin (No. 94, new series) on "The Composition and Use of Fertilizers." I think it is the best thing in this line yet published by any of our stations. It follows somewhat the same general plan as I had mapped out in writing my "Practical Farm Chemistry." The station is evidently aiming to diffuse elementary knowledge in such a way that any person of ordinary education can

understand it. This bulletin has about 136 pages, and explains (1) the chemistry of plants, plant-foods and soils; gives (2) a description of materials used as fertilizers; speaks of (3) the purchase and use of fertilizers; (4) the arithmetic of fertilizers, and gives (5) the average composition and value of different fertilizing materials and farm crops. I think I shall refer to this valuable bulletin again. In the meantime, however, I advise every reader who is interested in these problems to try to secure a copy. Apply to the director of the New York experiment station, Geneva, N. Y. It is to be hoped, that there will be copies enough for all who apply, even outside the state.

T. G. R.

"Silos and Silage" Is the title of Farmers' Bulletin No. 32, published for free distribution by the United States Department of Agriculture. It may be obtained by applying to



SWEET-POTATO BLOSSOMS.

the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. This bulletin is a concise but comprehensive publication on the best methods of constructing silos, and of preparing and using silage. The principal topics discussed are the construction and cost of silos, the selection and culture of silage crops, filling the silo, cost of silage, feeding value of silage, and feeding silage to farm stock. The best methods of silo construction are fully illustrated.

In conclusion, the bulletin says: "From a practical standpoint, the value of silage as a food may be shown in several ways. It is as easily digested as the same plant preserved dry. It keeps the digestive system in a state of healthy activity, thereby aiding digestion. It is generally considered that horses and cattle fed silage show the beneficial effects of this food in the more healthy condition of the skin, as evidenced in its pliable, mellow condition, and the softness and luster of the coat of hair. Animals usually eat sound silage with a relish, and reject it only when decay is present. For milk cattle it seems especially well adapted, and the silo has proved an important and economical addition to the dairy farm. Though not extensively used for the purpose, silage forms a valuable addition to the rations of sheep, and serves as a good and cheap substitute for roots. Its use as food for swine has been successful. Silage provides succulent food for farm animals at a time of the year when vegetation is dead, and so in a large degree replaces pasturage."

"It is not desirable or advisable to depend on silage alone for rough food. It should be fed only in a limited way in connection with hay and grain. For matured cattle, twenty-five to thirty-five pounds per day is a reasonable allowance. Horses should have less, and sheep only two or three pounds each."

"Of the green fodders suited to silage, Indian corn, all things considered, is best and cheapest. The proper time to harvest any green crop for silage is at maturity, before the leaves turn brown, and when the water content of the plant begins to diminish. Generally speaking, three tons of silage are equal in feeding value to one ton of hay. On this basis a much larger amount of digestible food can be secured from an acre of silage corn than from an acre of hay. The food equivalent of four tons of hay per acre can easily be produced on an acre of land planted to corn. The silo provides a more economical and compact method of storing fodder than the hay-mow. A silo of 180 tons capacity which will contain fifty-four tons of dry matter will hold less than twenty-three tons of red clover hay containing less than twenty tons of dry matter. The advantage of storage capacity clearly rests with the silo. The silo is especially adapted to intensive farming, where land is high in value and storage space is limited. A carelessly constructed silo is an extravagance. A well-made one is an economy. Temporary structures are not advisable."

THE SWEET-POTATO BLOSSOM.

The sweet potato does not bloom with the regularity of the season, even in the extreme South. In Tennessee and localities farther north, the flower is rarely seen. There is, perhaps, not a greater curiosity to the average farmer of the South than the sweet-potato blossom.

Season after season may pass and not a flower appear, and but at rare intervals do sweet potatoes bloom in profusion. A suitable soil, a certain maturity of the plant and other favorable conditions are necessary. Last season (1895) was favorable for a full development of early settings of the Queen, and this variety bloomed liberally. Most varieties will bloom under favorable conditions. The vines of some kinds have a tendency to root—all varieties have this tendency under certain conditions—thus keeping up a new and continuous growth, which prevents maturity sufficient to develop blooms.

The flower is monopetalous, trumpet-shaped, about two inches long and one inch across. The calyx is small and not conspicuous, and consists of five closely adhering sepals. There are five stamens and one pistil. The corolla, externally, is a delicate shade of pink for an inch or more from the base; the corresponding interior is a very striking and slightly varying purple-pink; while the terminal end, exterior and interior, is a soft, marble white.

The flower-bearing stem sends out from one to a dozen or more buds, and often supports at the same time many full-blown flowers. One vine often has many of these flower-bearing stems.

When my Queens began to bloom last September, I tagged with bits of paper several of these flowering vines. At the time of digging, in the early part of October, I examined these vines and secured several well-developed seeds. Though not so large, the seed and seed-pod very much resemble those of the morning-glory.

Sweet potatoes may be propagated from seed, and different varieties, which are many, may be hybridized by careful fertilization. A very small per cent of the flowers produce seed.

Cuttings from flowering vines bloom with the same freshness and beauty, in vases of water, as when attached to the parent vine. I had single cuttings last autumn to produce more than one hundred flowers, blooming continually for a space of three or four weeks. Vases of these flowers make very novel and attractive decoration. The blossoms are conspicuous upon detached vines standing firmly upon strong stems, but in patch or field they are often hidden beneath a heavy foliage. They rarely obtrude above the leaves, which lends to them a modest air. The flower is firm of texture, differing in this respect from the morning-glory.

Altogether, the sweet potato has a rare and interesting flower, and its beauties and its graces are its own.

JNO. C. BRIDGWATER.

Our Farm.

THE FARMER'S TRUCK GARDEN.

EVERY farmer should have a good truck garden. I mean something more than the small garden that every farmer is supposed to have. Not many farmers are without a garden of some sort, but usually the better the farmer the better the garden and the more of it. The wide-awake farmer wants plenty of vegetables, and in as great a variety as possible for his table. He not only enjoys better health because of their use as a food supply, but he eats them because he likes them, and believes that an animal or meat diet should always be accompanied with plenty of good vegetables. Man is an animal, so far as his physical wants go. There must be a dilution of the more concentrated foods if we would have perfect digestion; and in no way can we have it so well as with a variety of fresh vegetables as a part of our food supply. It is not only essential to health, but there is a pleasure and a satisfaction in having as great a variety of food upon our tables as possible. In no better way can we have such a variety than with a good truck garden. Too many of our farmers think it small business "puttering," as they call it, with a truck garden. They think they haven't time to spare from their money crops on the farm. This is a mistake in most cases. We have never been so busy on our farm (and we think we are very busy sometimes) but that we could find time to plant and tend the truck garden, and ours is no little eight by ten corner, either. We would as soon do without our meat supply as without the vegetable supply; one without the other is unbalanced.

Every farmer should lay off a piece of ground near the house for the special purpose of growing a full supply of early and late vegetables for his own household. If the family is large, the supply should be ample; if the family is small, unless a good market is handy, a smaller plot of ground will do. This plot of ground should be long and narrow, so the work of cultivating can be mostly done by horse-power. With long rows, less tramping at the ends will result. The rows should be straight and the plants put in as straight a line as possible. A row in which the plants are scattered sidewise in the rows can only be kept free of weeds by using the hoe. A little care in planting aids greatly in cultivating.

Early peas, beans, sweet corn, onions, lettuce, radishes, and any other early vegetable that fancy dictates, should be planted as early as the ground is in fit condition. Of course, the earlier varieties should be planted first, but I think it a good plan to make a planting of the later varieties at the same time; these will come in later, or about the time the earlier varieties are exhausted.

In planting sweet corn, for instance, we usually plant the Early Cory for early; at the same time we plant the Marblehead or some other medium early, and at the same time we plant a few rows of the later, such as Stowell's Evergreen. These three follow each other in succession nicely. About ten days later we make another planting of the Stowell's Evergreen, and sometimes a third planting; in this way we can have corn for the table for a long time. No more healthful and palatable dish can be put upon the table than that of sweet corn, and a good supply should always be provided. Sweet corn should be planted with but one grain in a place, and but a foot apart; or perhaps what is better, plant two grains in one place a foot apart and if two come up, pull out the weakest one. Sweet corn usually "suckers," and with but one stalk in a hill the "suckers" can be left on, and will produce a good ear; but where more than one stalk is in a place, the "suckers" make too much of a draft on the root, and very small ears is the result.

After the earlier planting is done, and when the ground becomes warmer, we plant carrots, parsnips, salsify, turnips, and a later planting of beets, beans, peas, radishes, etc. Then comes melons, cucumbers and squashes, and still later cabbage and tomatoes. In cultivating the earlier

plantings the ground should also be stirred where later planting is to be done; in this way a great many weeds can be destroyed.

The truck garden should also include the berry-patch; without berries the farmer's bill of fare is incomplete. Strawberries should come first, and a good big bed it should be, too. No fruit is easier to grow and none more delicious and healthful than strawberries; raspberries come in nicely after the strawberry. The black-cap first and the reds just a little later; then should come the blackberries; currants, gooseberries, pie-plant and asparagus should each have a place in the truck garden. Pie-plant and asparagus should have a good covering of well-rotted manure early in the winter, and when once thoroughly rooted, give a good return in supplying the table very early in the season with very toothsome and healthful dishes.

I believe if our friends on the farm would give the truck and berry garden more attention it would not only result in better health usually, but in a profit as well. This is especially true where there are children in the family old enough to take interest in the work; the work is light, and the children will often take hold of it with a zest. They should be encouraged, and if there is a surplus to spare, they should be allowed part, at least, of the profits coming from the sales. Encourage the children to help work the truck garden. They may develop a liking for it that may in after years become a very profitable line for them.

J. H. PALM.

Richland county, Ohio.

PICKED POINTS.

Extremes in rainfall, or the lack of it, are likely to occur any season in most sections of the country. In view of their wholesale destruction of crops, the farmer may well consider if there is not some way to avoid, in some measure, the evil effects of both extremes; and if so, to adopt it. Bad effects of excessive precipitation can best be mitigated and reduced to a minimum by underdrainage. This gives the incidental advantage of being able to work the soil earlier in the spring. There is not a particle of doubt that it is advisable to underdrain all tilled land that has a hard, impervious subsoil.

But combatting a drought is another thing. It may be less expensive, but as a rule more beneficial. Usually, soil is now plowed only five to eight inches in depth, and beneath that the ground is hard. Considerable rain makes the plowed surface as a bed of mortar. Water cannot drain away through the compact subsoil, and it must remain in the surface until the atmosphere evaporates it, which may require several days, perhaps a week; meantime it damages the crop by checking growth, for none but marine-plants can flourish with continuous "wet feet." And then, in a drought, a thin, loose soil soon dries out, and crops die in consequence. No moisture in the soil is more damaging than too much.

What can be done to conserve moisture in preparation for a drought? Moisture can be made to ascend when precipitation is insufficient, but for this purpose the ground must be loose and friable. It cannot ascend through hard-pan, or earth compacted very much, because capillarity is cut off. It is reasonable, then, to loosen the compacted subsoil; and what can do it as well as the subsoil-plow? Loosening the subsoil makes a reservoir for surplus water which no ordinary drought can dry out. Much of it remains there to be pumped up by capillarity as growing plants need it. A hard subsoil contains large quantities of unavailable plant-food. Loosening it so that sun and warmth can enter, this is gradually made available for the use of plants, whose roots pump it up, also for present use of plants; and when these roots decay, their contents of plant-food remain to be appropriated by succeeding plants. There is a farm under every other farm, and by subsoiling and cultivating deeper one gets the benefit of both. With underdrains to carry away surplus water, and the soil loosened deeply, one can almost bid defiance to droughts and excessive rains.

It is the testimony of nearly everyone who has tested it that subsoiling, properly done, largely increases the crops, whether the season be wet, dry or medium. The greatest advantage of this process is that of securing more nearly the right degree of moisture; and the next is that it gives plant roots access to a mine of plant-food contained in the subsoil which was before as a sealed book. New land, or that newly brought into cultivation, rarely possesses what is called a hard-pan a few inches beneath the surface; but the longer from the state of nature, and the more the soil is tilled, the harder and more impervious the substratum becomes, and usually the thinner and poorer the surface soil gets. The tramping of horses and cattle and grinding of the plow compacts it, and it finally becomes a complete watershed. This condition should never be permitted to obtain, or suffered to remain when formed. No land with this obstruction can do its best. Much erosion or washing of soil would be prevented were the subsoil not compacted. It is a question when to subsoil.

DR. GALEN WILSON.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

THE OUTLOOK FOR HORSES.—At a farmers' institute in Lucas county, Ohio, last month, a noted veterinarian of that county remarked that within three years there would not be a sufficient number of horses in Lucas county to supply the demand. So far as I have been able to observe, while visiting many sections of Ohio this winter, Lucas will not be the only county requiring the importation of horses. Breeding has almost entirely ceased in many localities, and while there is a present surplus of animals ready for work, few are coming on to take their places. It requires six years' time to put a serviceable horse upon the market, and the present low prices promise to keep so many out of the business that there will be a marked advance in price before many are ready to reap any profit therefrom.

There is another reason to expect an advance in the price of horses. When breeding became unprofitable, the best animals were sent to the cities, and those which should be on the farms to-day for breeding purposes are being worn out on the streets of cities. The best mares were converted into money, and it will be no easy matter in many counties to find fit animals for breeding when wanted. Amid the surplus horses to-day there are comparatively few that are fit for breeding. We have learned that there is no satisfactory result from breeding small and ill-formed mares to big, beefy sires. The colts are big-headed, loose-jointed and unserviceable. It does seem that the owner of a choice brood-mare has as good prospect of profit from raising colts now as he has in any other line of work.

There is no reason to expect exorbitant prices for horses again; but what other kind of stock offers great profits? There is very little money in cattle for Ohio stockmen now. Choice fat cattle are selling at a very low price. Sheep are doing no better, although a revival of the wool industry is expected. We must have stock in this state, as there is much natural grazing land that is practically worthless without stock. Just as soon as the present surplus of second-rate horses wears out, we may expect to see a readier sale for horses than most other stock. Invention is reducing the demand for horses in some lines, but it cannot seriously cripple the demand for first-class horses in this generation, at least. It is the vast number of scrubs that has ruined prices, and these scrubs are now decreasing in number.

OUTDOOR FEEDING OF CATTLE.—Much has been written about the stabling of stock in the feeding season, and yet our largest cattle feeders still feed in the open lot. Is it not a fair presumption that these men are in the business for the profit that is in it, and that outdoor feeding would cease if it is unwise? Several considerations affect the decision in respect to feeding in the stable or open lot. In the sections where the heaviest feeding is done, corn usually is cheap. The saving of feed is not so large a cash item as it would be in the far East. Labor is the highest-priced commodity farmers buy to-day, and whatever method requires the greatest amount of labor adds to the debit side of the farm ledger rapidly.

When feed is low-priced and labor is high-priced, it is quite possible that the least laborious method of feeding may be the most profitable.

It is quite possible, I admit, that the least laborious method may often be the most profitable when grain is very cheap, but the rule is that the quickest way is not the most desirable. While stabling does not commend itself to many feeders, the custom of providing some shelter is growing. The lot is preferred to the open field for feeding, when mud can be escaped, and in this lot there should be open sheds, surrounded by wind-breaks. The cattle have protection from storms without much increase of the labor bill. The waste of feed required as fuel for the animals is reduced very materially in this way, and there is little actual suffering. The corn appears to be fed wastefully, but this is in appearance only, as careful experiment shows that the profit from the hogs following the cattle exceeds any saving by grinding of the grain.

THE SMALL FEEDER.—Granting the probability that extensive feeders of cheap corn may find the open lot the most profitable place for feeding, if open sheds and wind-breaks are provided, it does not follow that the small feeder should follow their example. In the first place, he usually has time to do his own work, and the labor item does not enter as a factor of importance. Whatever saving he may make by stalling his stock goes into his own pocket. Again, he usually feeds higher-priced corn than his competitor in the great corn-feeding sections, and the saving of a bushel means more money to him than to his competitor. With high-priced corn it costs him more money to maintain heat in his animals than it is wise to expend in this way.

THE MANURE.—The probability is that the manure is, or should be, a greater consideration with the smaller feeder in a section where corn is not the main crop. In the greatest corn-producing regions there is wonderful natural fertility, and some waste of manure does not yet appear ruinous; but in the East the need of plant-food grows more and more apparent. The feeder should arrange to save all the manure, and this is effectively done only by stall feeding. The writer has never fed more than twenty heavy cattle in one winter, but these were stalled, and the manure paid well for all the labor. There was comfort for the stock and its owner, as there was no mud, no storms, no waste of food, and no robbing of the weak by the strong.

VARYING CONDITIONS.—We can lay down very few hard and fast rules in agriculture. Each man must figure matters out for himself. It is very reasonable that some extensive feeders may consider stabling impracticable and unprofitable, but their experience is not helpful to the small feeder. When corn is relatively high, or when the labor can be done without hiring, or when the manure is a prime consideration, the open lot cannot compete with the stable for profit. The extensive feeder, however, as a matter of fact, inclines more and more toward protection of stock from winter weather, even in the face of the present high rate demanded by labor.

DAVID.

Help

Is needed by poor, tired mothers, debilitated and run down because of poor, thin blood. Help is needed by the nervous sufferer, the men and women tortured with rheumatism, neuralgia, dyspepsia, scrofula, catarrh. Help comes quickly when Hood's Sarsaparilla begins to enrich, purify and vitalize the blood and send it in a healthy, nourishing, invigorating stream to all the nerves, muscles and organs of the body.

Hood's

Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

UNDISCOVERED.—In some lines we were successful and made a profit last season, even if not to the same extent that we had in previous years. I can see no grounds for discouragement, and for this reason make preparations even for extended gardening operations. Onions have paid us, although not fully as well as in many previous seasons. Undoubtedly they will pay again this year. What we must do is to work our home markets a little more thoroughly; and if growers would do that more generally, many thousands of bushels would find takers at acceptable prices. Most of our farmers and farmers' families, for instance, hardly ever taste an onion during the winter. This is simply because they have none, and no good chance to buy them. Possibly they do not wish to pay out money for them, either. But all farmers have wheat or oats or corn, etc., and if one should offer them a bushel of onions for a bushel of wheat, or its equivalent in other grain, they would gladly make the exchange.

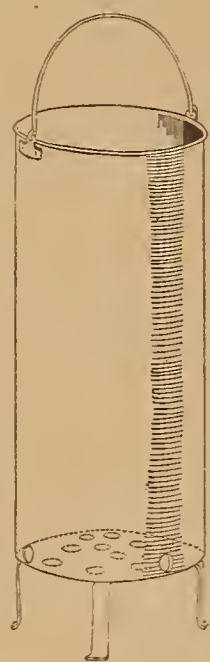
EXCHANGING PRODUCTS.—This same plan is applicable to many neighborhood transactions. I know that many farmers dispose of their grape crop among the residents of neighboring towns (less favorable to grape growing), by taking in exchange any kind of produce that can be converted into cash. Some of these grape-growing farmers have a number of acres in grapes, and they usually try to get from one and a half to two cents a pound for the crop, selling only by the crate. They claim that their grapes pay them much better than grain crops. A similar method of selling may be followed with strawberries and other small fruits, peaches, plums, garden vegetables of all kinds, seed-potatoes, etc.

COST OF POTATOES.—Some people did not like it that the statement went out that potatoes could be raised at ten cents a bushel. Outside of the high-priced seed that I used in some instances (for Carman No. 3 I paid \$5.50 for half a bushel), my crop did not cost more than ten cents a bushel last year. But that was an exceptional season, and the yield was large. People who raise only average crops (less than one hundred bushels) cannot grow potatoes for less than twenty-five or thirty cents a bushel at a profit. We have no trade secrets, and I do not believe that it will do any harm to state that our improved methods lower cost of production to such an extent that we would not be losers, if we had to sell our potatoes at present prices, or even feed them to our stock. It should be an inducement to less successful growers to adopt the newer methods of potato growing. I am inclined to look hopefully into the future. The skilful grower has little to lose, and much to gain. Every farmer around me planted potatoes largely last year. I do not know of one, except myself, who is going to plant on as large a scale this year. Even with a more than average yield they have gotten little, if any, money out of their large crops. They are utterly discouraged, and in spite of all that I or any other more fortunate potato grower can say about "small cost of production," and moderate profits even this year, the acreage planted to potatoes will be very much smaller. And as we are not likely to have another year of unusually large yields follow right upon that of 1895, we may even now take it for granted, or at least for very probable, that the potato crop of 1896 will not be an excessively large one. The pendulum swings back. High prices of potatoes next fall are more likely than unusually low ones.

GREENHOUSE FUMIGATION.—The only way to prevent loss and annoyance caused by the presence of the greenfly (aphis) in the greenhouse is to keep the pest out from the very start. If we allow it once to get a good foothold, it will be next to impossible to get entirely rid of it as long as there are larger plants in the house. Large lettuce-plants especially provide secure hiding-places, on the under side of the outer leaves and well inside the hearts, etc. Therefore, it is of the greatest importance that we begin with our preventive measures early enough, and just as soon as plants are started. Tobacco smoke is the

means generally recognized as safest and most efficacious. The house must be filled with dense clouds of smoke, and left thus until the smoke has penetrated every inch of space and settled all among the plants, and had time to take full effect on all greenflies inside of the house. This remedy should be applied twice a week right along, from the time the young plants are first started until within a couple of weeks of their being gathered for use. As an additional precaution, I usually sprinkle the lettuce-plants while young with tobacco dust; but this alone does not afford complete protection, nor can it be used on plants beginning to head. I have an idea that spraying with weak kerosene emulsion shortly after fumigation, and while the insects are lying either dead or in a deadly stupor on the ground among the plants, will be a good thing, and kill those that might otherwise have recovered and gone back to the plants.

A CHEAP TOBACCO FUMIGATOR.—The question is how to make the smoke. Tobacco-stems are very cheap, and just the thing. Or we can raise and cure our own tobacco. I think I shall do that hereafter. But we need a kettle or oven in which to burn the stems, without danger of setting fire to the house. In Bulletin No. 96, issued by the Cornell University experiment station, Prof. Bailey describes and pictures a cheap home-made tobacco-stem burner, one, it seems to me, which is just as good and serviceable as the much higher-priced fumigators advertised by seedsmen and florists. The device is shown in the accompanying illustration. It is described as follows:



"The body of the burner is made of heavy, galvanized sheet-iron. It closely resembles a stovepipe in form, but is about seven inches in diameter and two feet in length. The bottom is made of the same material; it is perforated by about a dozen holes, each three eighths of an inch in diameter. Four legs support the burner, and keep the bottom three inches from the floor. A handle at the top completes the device. When filled, the stems being packed sufficiently close to insure their burning, it contains an amount that will answer for a house of 4,000 to 6,000 cubic feet. Much, of course, depends upon the tightness of the house, and considerable variation will also be found in the strength of the stems. The quantity must also be varied in accordance with the plants growing in the house. Some plants are much more easily injured by the smoke than others, and the amount used must be insufficient to hurt the most tender plants. Less injury is apt to result if the houses and plants are dry; wet foliage is quite easily scorched by the smoke. Our method of starting a 'smudge' is to place a single sheet of newspaper, previously lighted, in the bottom of the burner, and upon this the stems are immediately placed. They will take fire readily, and if properly dampened, will smoulder without blazing."

T. GREINER.

FOR WOMEN!

ONE KIND OF PROTECTION THAT PROTECTS.

Seven out of every ten articles we eat, drink and wear are legally protected, and there isn't a medical man under the sun who doesn't continually use such articles. Yet a majority of these same men say to their patients that because the United States government has seen fit to recognize and protect the name of a certain medical discovery, made by one of the most successful, regularly qualified practitioners in America—that this fact renders such discovery unworthy of public confidence.

No traveler, not even a doctor, ever objected to having his or her life saved by a Westinghouse air-brake, and no one declines to enjoy the blessings of Edison's electric light or Bell's telephone. All these discoveries are protected by law. Civilized governments recognize the fact that public benefactors are not only worth protecting, but that they require protection for the

good of the people. By protecting them the public protects itself. Discoveries that increase the comforts of life and lessen its burdens and dangers are the result of brains, study and genius, and there is a premium on brains the world over.

Every discoverer is entitled to the fruits of his labor, genius and skill. It is enough that he places his discovery within the



reach of the people. He need not make a partner of the public, or a confidant of the profession.

The case in point is a discovery which is annually brightening the lives of

THOUSANDS OF WOMEN.

A discovery which, according to their own written statements, has rescued over 90,000 women from conditions of hopeless despondency and despair and brought them happiness and health.

This discovery is legally protected as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It is not a patent medicine, but its name and individuality are, for the benefit of all, protected against pirates and imitations. It is the discovery of Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., Chief Consulting Physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute and author of the People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, of which more copies have already been sold than of any other book ever published in this country.

Why shouldn't women use Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription? Its discoverer is a regularly qualified physician who has made the treatment of ailments peculiar to women a life study and a life specialty. His thirty years' practice in this special field, during which he with his staff of specialists have successfully treated hundreds of thousands of cases, has afforded him opportunities enjoyed by no one else for discovering the right methods and the right remedies.

That he should, for his own protection and the protection of his patients who are scattered all over the globe, take advantage of that law of which every inventor in other fields avails himself, is neither unprofessional nor unbusinesslike. It's good, sound common sense.

One reason that women suffer in silence agonies that would make

A COWARD OF MAN

is because her inborn modesty causes her to shrink from the ordeal of submitting to medical examination and the stereotyped "local treatment." When, finally, torture drives her to seek advice, she, unfortunately, only too often falls into hands that lack the rare ability upon which her peace of mind, her happiness, and her life depend. Instead of the treatment that makes thousands of cures a certainty and failure almost an unheard-of accident, she receives that which makes failure a certainty and the cure a mere accident.

VALUABLE ADVICE FREE.

Any woman who does not promptly experience the usual happy results from the use of Dr. Pierce's world-renowned "Favorite Prescription" will, upon the sending to the Doctor, at the address given above, particulars of her case in writing, receive, free of charge, such plain, straightforward, confidential advice as will enable her to cure herself at home, if her case is curable—and his thirty years' experience has proved that there are not three incurable cases in a hundred when treated in this way.

In a face-to-face examination, the patient is often confused or excited and gives imperfect or incorrect answers. After she has left the presence of the physician she finds, to her great annoyance, that she failed to give many of the most important symptoms. In consulting by letter the patient is not so embarrassed. She states the exact symptoms, reads over her letter carefully to see if it is a complete and accurate description of her sufferings. The timid lady writes just as she feels, and one reason for the unparalleled success Dr.

Pierce has met with in treating intricate and delicate diseases is because he has obtained true and natural statements of the cases. As this correspondence is treated as sacredly confidential, any woman, married or single, may under any and all circumstances write to Dr. Pierce with perfect propriety and perfect safety.

The records show that there are not three women in a hundred suffering from any form of weakness and diseases peculiar to females, who will not receive prompt, decided, permanent, cure-effecting benefit by taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. This woman's remedy is the direct outgrowth of the greatest experience on record in this or any other country in treating diseases of women. It is yearly making thousands of cures in every part of the civilized globe. It acts directly upon the seat of all functional disorders and diseases incident to woman's peculiar organism.

Its sale through druggists is larger than the combined sales of all other medicines for women.

THE MOTHER'S FRIEND.

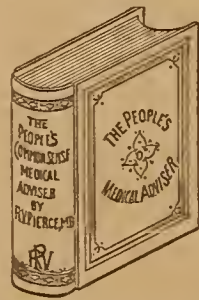
It is the only medicine in the world that makes childbirth easy and almost entirely painless and divests it of danger to both mother and child. Its use should be commenced early in gestation and taken constantly. It never does harm in any condition of the system, and it generally controls "morning sickness" and other distressing symptoms. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is not recommended as a "cure-all," but as a most perfect specific for women's peculiar ailments, and for those only.

As a powerful, invigorating tonic, it imparts strength to the whole system, and to the organs distinctly feminine in particular. For overworked, "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated teachers, milliners, dressmakers, seamstresses, "shop-girls," housekeepers, nursing mothers, and feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon, being unequalled as an appetizing cordial and invigorating tonic.

As a soothing and strengthening nerveine, "Favorite Prescription" is unequalled in subduing nervous excitability, irritability, nervous exhaustion, nervous prostration, neuralgia, hysteria, spasms, chorea, or St. Vitus's dance, and other distressing, nervous symptoms commonly attendant upon functional and organic disease of the generative organs of women. It induces refreshing sleep and relieves mental anxiety and despondency.

A GREAT BOOK FREE.

When Dr. Pierce published the first edition of his work, The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser, he announced that after 680,000 copies had been sold at the regular price, \$1.50 per copy, the profit on which would repay him for the immense amount of labor and money expended in producing it, he would distribute



the next half million free. As this number of copies has already been sold, he is now giving away, absolutely free, 500,000 copies of this most complete, interesting and valuable common sense medical work ever published—the recipient only being required to mail to him, or the World's Dispensary Medical Association, of Buffalo, N. Y., of which he is President, this little COUPON NUMBER with COUPON No. 239 stamps to cover cost of mailing only, and the book will be sent post-paid. It is a veritable medical library, complete in one great volume. It contains over 1,000 pages and more than 300 illustrations. Several finely illustrated chapters are devoted to the careful consideration in plain language, of diseases peculiar to women and their successful home treatment without the aid of a physician and without having to submit to dreaded "examinations" and the stereotyped "local applications," so repulsive to the modestly sensitive woman. The Free Edition is precisely the same as that heretofore sold at \$1.50, except only that the books are bound in strong paper covers instead of cloth. If French cloth, embossed and gold stamped covers are desired, send 10 cents extra—31 cents in all, to cover only the postage and the extra cost of that more durable and beautiful style of binding. Send now before all are given away.

Our Farm.

Orchard and Small Fruits.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED

BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

Grafting Queries—Magnolia.—J. W. R., Waterloo, Kansas, writes: "1. What is the best way to graft pears and quinces? 2. Can quince be root-grafted in February or March on pear or apple stocks? 3. Can pear be root-grafted on apple stocks? 4. Should the scion be cut in the fall? 5. How should they be kept until needed for use? 6. How are grapes grafted?—How are Magnolia grandiflora trees raised from seed?"

REPLY:—1. I presume you wish to work pear on quince for the purpose of dwarfing the trees. It is customary to plant quince stocks for this purpose and bud them in the summer. Of course, you know that some varieties of pears do much better than others on quince stocks, and that those which do not unite well when worked directly on quince will succeed when double worked; that is, when worked on some pear which does unite well with the quince and has been worked on it. The best way to graft quince with pear is to do it below ground, on thrifty, well-established, planted-out stocks, in the spring, about the time growth starts. Root-grafting in the winter is not a good practice in this case. The quince will take quite readily on the pear and apple when root-grafted, but on the apple it makes a very inferior union, though it is a common practice to graft quince cuttings with a few inches of apple root, as it helps to nourish them until they strike root. After the first season, in the latter case, the apple root is generally broken off and the cuttings then have quince roots only. 2. This is answered above. The mode of procedure is the same as in root-grafting apples, and if the work is carefully done and the union put below the surface of the ground, the work is as certain as in root-grafting apples, and may be done at any time during winter. An inch or two of apple root is all that is necessary to make the quince scion grow. 3. I have sometimes root-grafted the pear on apple roots successfully. There is much difference in varieties in regard to this matter. The Russian pear, Bessemanica, takes fairly well on the apple, but, as a rule, pears are a practical failure on apple roots. 4. It is best to cut pear and apple scions late in the fall, after the leaves have fallen, since they may be somewhat injured by trying conditions in winter, but they generally grow very nice when cut in the spring and used at once. 5. I keep my apple and pear scions in sawdust which is quite dry, but they may be kept in moss or buried in loam or sand; but when buried in sand, the grit adhering to the wood takes the edge off the tools used in working them up. They should be kept in a pit-cave or cold cellar, or if not to be used until spring, may be buried in sand outdoors. I have a cave in a gravel-bank, made of oak logs, in which I keep my scions and grafts, and it keeps them perfectly. 6. While I have had some success in grafting grape roots in the winter, the same as apples are grafted, yet my best success has been by grafting well-established roots in the open ground as soon as the top soil was thawed out enough so that I could make the union below ground. This is usually in March with me. I use two or three bud scions, and proceed the same as in cleft-grafting apples. After inserting the scions, I make a mound of earth over the graft, reaching to the highest bud. In this way I have been quite successful, but do not expect over sixty per cent to grow, and I have tried many other plans. I cut my grape scions in the fall.—Have never had any experience with Magnolia grandiflora from seed, but judging from the treatment needed for similar seeds, it is my opinion that the fresh fruit should be placed in a vessel and kept moist, and allowed to rot for several weeks, then be mixed with sand and buried in the ground outdoors until spring. Preferably, the seed should not be allowed to get dry and hard at any time. If I had dry seeds to plant, I should mix them with moist sand for a month or more, or until they were moistened through. I should then allow them to ferment with apple pomace or other material, and then freeze in sand outdoors. I think with this treatment they would grow, if at all, but possibly not then until the second year.

Trimming Grape-vines.—H. O. W., Erie, Pa., writes: "Please send diagram and instructions for trimming grape-vines."

REPLY:—It is quite out of the question for me to send you a diagram and instructions for pruning grape-vines, since the conditions of the vines now and the method of pruning them followed in the past must be taken into consideration in planning the best method to follow now. I think your best plan would be to consult with some fruit grower or some one who has had experience in this matter in your vicinity. In a very general way, pruning should consist in removing as much as five sixths of the new wood, for if it was all allowed to grow, the vine would bear five times as many bunches of grapes as it could mature well. The new wood produces in the spring the branches which bear the fruit, from buds near the base of the new wood, and these should all be cut away, except from three to six buds, in ordinary practice.



EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM FLORIDA.—Polk county has often been referred to as having within its limits almost every kind of soil to be found in the state. The lands of this county are classed as high and low hammocks, high pine, flatwoods, sand scrub, etc. The high pine lands are classed as "choice" and "poor" pine, but this classification is not always a correct one. The pine land is covered more or less with a fine growth of *Pinus palustris* (the long-leaf pine). The high pine land is the least subject to frost, though not so productive as the flatwoods. Near Winter Haven, but away back in the flatwoods, is an old clearing where Chief Tallahassee and his braves—or, rather, his squaws—raised "maize" many decades ago. Sand-scrub land is covered with saw-palmetto, and is practically worthless. The best of it is covered with pine-trees about as large as are grown anywhere, and scattered among them are live-oaks and willow or turkey-oaks of smaller size. There is one other kind of land sometimes spoken of, called "prairie land." It occurs in large, flat areas, is covered with grasses, and is very wet and worthless except for the possible cultivation of rice. The hammock land is subdivided into high and low hammock. Usually, the high hammock only is tillable, although thousands of acres of the latter have been drained and reclaimed by the Distons. High hammock is open land which seems to have pushed up a few feet from the surrounding land and water. It is a rich, sandy soil, and produces a heavy, semi-tropical growth of timber and dense underbrush. Live-oaks and hickories usually grow to a vast size, and cabbage-palmettos become stately trees, forming a distinctively tropical scene. When cleared, these lands will produce heavy crops for years, varying according to their richness. Low, or swamp, hammock, is usually covered with water, and produces a heavy growth of bay-trees, cypress, swamp-maples, magnolias, etc. It is practically useless unless the level of the adjoining lakes can be lowered, thereby draining it. When drained, it becomes an inexhaustible producer. By drainage, large beds of pure muck, many feet in depth, are exposed, which equals in value well-rotted stable manure. The foregoing description applies very well to all of the central and southern parts of the state, by simply varying the proportion of pine and hammock lands. Some counties are known as hammock counties. These increase in extent as the everglades are approached. Around Lake Okechobee there are vast tracts of worthless swamp and low hammock lands; indeed, it can truly be said that the great lake has no shores—simply a fringe of trees growing out of shallow water. Large, rotting stumps form sunny places for snakes, that glide off into the water as you approach. This is the home of the "diamond rattler" (*Crotalus horridus*), which, however, gives due warning. It is a curious fact that many of his companions which are harmless are in the habit of imitating his rattle by whipping the ends of their tails against the grass or dry leaves. The residents on hammock lands are more subject to malaria than those who dwell on the more elevated locations immediately adjoining.

Winter Haven, Fla.

E. W. H.

FROM OREGON.—I have found the El Dorado that I have been wishing for during the last two years. Those who prefer, as I do, irrigation to rainfall, can get land at \$10 an acre within two miles of Ontario, on the Union Pacific railroad, one of our great transcontinental highways. The water-stock can now be bought at less than \$5 for an acre of land, so it is only \$15 an acre altogether for land as productive as any in the world. It is not rich in the vegetable constituents like the famous Red river valley of the North or the Mississippi bottoms of the South. We cannot grow oranges, lemons, bananas and almonds, as California does, but we can raise anything that grows in the temperate zone, and such land will appreciate until it sells at \$100 an acre, as in Utah and Colorado. I saw the very same kind of land selling at \$75 an acre in the famous Yakima valley, two years ago, and am convinced that there is not another spot in the three states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho where irrigable land in a large body, at this altitude (2,150 feet), is so low in price. This large Snake river valley, with its millions of irrigable land, is one of the newest sections of the Northwest, and is destined to be the garden of the United States. There is gold enough in the Snake river to pay off the national debt, but it is so fine that machinery has not yet been devised that will save it. One drawback is that we have to go fifty miles to good timber, the nearest being in Idaho. As for the climate, it is exceedingly healthful. In the winter there are no hizzards, though the cold is severe; the thermometer has registered eight degrees below zero. In summer it is very hot, but cases of sunstroke are absolutely unknown. Cyclones are never heard of.

Ontario, Malheur county, Oregon.

FROM NORTH DAKOTA.—I will tell the readers of your paper a little about Bottineau county. It is true we live pretty far north. This county contains the largest part of the Turtle mountains, and stretches out from the foothills to the Mous river. The soil is very rich and productive. The mountain is almost wholly settled and cleared up. The prairie is, gently rolling, lying to the south. The principal crops are wheat, oats and barley, but other crops are grown. The average yield of wheat last year was over thirty bushels per acre. This county offers inducements to settlers of one hundred and sixty acres as a homestead, good soil, good water, good neigh-

bors, churches, schools, and the Bottineau branch of the Great Northern railroad, etc. Bottineau, the county-seat, is a thriving little town about fourteen miles from the Manitoba boundary. Any one willing to exert himself can in a few years make himself independent. There is abundance of natural grass, both pasture and hay. Horses, cattle, sheep and swine do well. Vegetables grow to perfection. Improved lands can be had for from three to five dollars per acre. The writer last year had 7,500 bushels of wheat, 1,900 of barley and 2,500 of oats. I used 1,000 pounds of twine, and paid \$783.95 for threshing my whole crop. Wheat is worth about 40 cents per bushel, so any one can figure out what will be left. Any one with a family and a little to start with, can do better here than in any other part of the world I have seen yet. Our summers are pleasant, our winters are clear and cold. Hauling grain and wood can be done any day. Some horses run out all winter, with no shelter whatever. About seven and a half months is our working season upon the land, from April 1st to November 10th.

Bottineau, North Dakota.

FROM TEXAS.—If any one doubts that the circulation of the FARM AND FIRESIDE extends from Quebec to the City of Mexico, and from the Atlantic coast to the Sandwich islands, let him write up his county. A few months ago I wrote an article in regard to Hartley county for the FARM AND FIRESIDE. The result reminded me of the man who advertised to buy cats, and the letters are still coming. In general, I desire to say to inquirers that this country is not a new El Dorado or the site of the original Garden of Eden, but an undeveloped country where lands are cheap and stock farmers can make money, and where doctors are few and far between and seldom needed. In regard to state lands, they sell at \$1 and \$2 an acre, forty years' time, one fortieth down, three per cent interest, but all can be paid three years after purchase. Homesteads cost \$16.50—160 acres to heads of families, and 80 acres to single persons (male or female). Homesteads are getting scarce. Three years' occupancy required on all state lands. Society, public schools and railroad facilities are good, and the homestead laws of Texas are more favorable than those of any other state to the farmer. I say to those who wish to know more of the country, "come and see." The lath-strings in Texas are on the outside, and pumpkin pies, fat turkeys and home-made sausage plentiful.

Hartley, Texas.

EARLIEST ONIONS PAY.

There's a market gardener in Minnesota. He is prosperous, makes his money on earliest vegetables, gets his seeds from Salzer, follows Salzer's instructions how to grow 1000 bu. per acre and sells Salzer's King of the Earliest onion already in July and gets \$1.50 a bu. Catalogue tells all about it and of lots of other seed for garden and farm! 35 packages earliest vegetables \$1.00.

If you will cut this out and send it with 12c. stamps to John A. Salzer, La Crosse, Wis., you will get free his catalogue and a package of yellow water-melon sensation, if you mention FARM AND FIRESIDE.

450,000 TREES

200 varieties. Also Grapes, Small Fruits, etc. Best rooted stock. Genuine, cheap. 2 sample currants mailed for 10c. Desc. price list free. LEWIS ROESCH, Fredonia, N. Y.

SEND for our 1896 Catalogue of Northern Grown

—SEED POTATOES—

Catalogue Free. Prices Reduced to suit the times. Agents Wanted. HOOKER, GROVER & CO., Nurserymen and Seedsmen, Rochester, N. Y.

Mention this paper when you write.

STRAWBERRIES, Raspberries, Blackberries, Currants, Grapes, Gooseberries, Novelties, etc.

Our Illustrated 60-page 1896 Catalogue will tell you how to plant and grow fruit. Catalogue Free. L. M. Brandt & Son, Box 185, Franklin, Ohio.

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Read the AMERICAN SHEEP BREEDER. Established 14 years. Thirty-six Pages, devoted to Sheep, Mutton and Wool. Edited by highest authorities. Elegantly illustrated. Veterinary Department worth ten times subscription price. Send stamp for sample copy and terms to new subscribers. AMERICAN SHEEP BREEDER. Mention this paper. (W. W. BURCH, Mgr.) CHICAGO, ILL.

TREES and Small Fruits. Hardy Northern grown stock. All the new and best varieties. The Alice Grape, keeps all winter. Walter Pease, finest desert Apple, and many others. 60 page catalogue Free. Send for it. FRED. E. YOUNG, NURSERIES, Rochester, N. Y.

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I have everything in Strawberries, 60 varieties, and a million plants. 30 varieties of Raspberries and 500,000 plants. 25 varieties of Blackberries and 200,000 plants. A full stock of Currants, Gooseberries, Grapevines and Novelties. Send for my Illustrated Descriptive Catalogue; it contains 60 full page illustrations and descriptions of fine fruit, with report on strawberries, free. Address D. Brandt, Box 311, Bremen, Ohio

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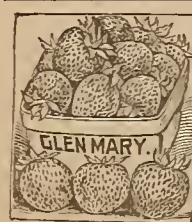
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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hamonton, New Jersey.

THE SITTING HENS AND THE EGGS.

THE hen is seldom at fault if the eggs do not hatch. The fact that two or three chicks hatch show that the warmth was correct, and if one chicken hatches, all should hatch. This applies to incubators as well as to the use of hens for hatching. When a clutch of thirteen eggs is placed under a hen, and she performs her work faithfully for three weeks, she can do no more. She may bring out a single chick, but that lone chick will be her evidence that, so far as she is concerned, all the eggs should hatch. All failures of hatching, however, are charged to the hen, when the real cause is far back of her, and over which she has no control whatever.

If more attention could be given to the selection of the eggs used for the incubator, the losses in hatching would be reduced to a minimum. When a large number of eggs are used in an incubator, or by allowing a number of hens to sit, there are more chances in favor of a majority of the eggs failing to hatch than otherwise, especially if the eggs are procured from different yards. There are some farmers who keep their stock inbred, while some have no males with the hens, or perhaps the males have been frosted and are of no value for service. Fat hens, sick hens, immature pullets and exposed eggs all contribute their share to bad hatches, yet the sitting hen receives condemnation which she does not deserve.

A great many incubators fail because they cannot perform the impossible work of hatching eggs that will not hatch. When an incubator hatches a portion of the eggs, there is no reason why it should not hatch all of them, if the eggs are what they should be.

The early season is the time for making preparations. If good hatches are expected this winter and spring, the selection of laying hens should be made when the yards are full and a better opportunity is presented for discarding those that are defective. It should be an imperative duty to select male birds from a distance, and to use only pure breeds on the male side. If this is done, the loss of vigor for inbreeding will be avoided, and right here it may be remarked that nearly all of the poor hatches are due to inbreeding or to the hens being fed heavily and made too fat. If eggs of a normal size—not too small or not too large—and free from imperfection of the shells, are selected for hatching, the liability of loss would be greatly reduced.

MAKING THE HOUSE WARM.

When the floor of a poultry-house is covered to the depth of from two to six inches with litter, such as dirt, cut straw, refuse hay or leaves, there is not only a protection against loss of heat and the prevention of cold currents from below, but the drafts of air which flow across the floor are prevented. The additional comfort of a poultry-house by the use of such litter will be appreciated by the hens; they will be more active, and will also keep busily employed in working in the litter.

A successful poultryman once remarked that he gave more attention to keeping the floor of the poultry-house clean than he did to the food. His reason was that no amount of food would enable the hens to lay if they were not kept warm and busy; but if warm, they would lay even if the food was only of the ordinary kind.

Litter is cheap, and there is no reason for neglecting its use. A straw-cutter should be kept not only to cut straw for litter, but also to cut clover for the fowls. If the straw is cut in lengths of about six inches, it is all that is required.

"BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES" are unequalled for clearing the voice. Public speakers and singers the world over use them.

VIGILANCE IN USING INCUBATORS.

Incubators with regulators are perhaps better than contrivances that require constant watching; but more eggs have failed to hatch, and more chicks have been lost, by not watching than have been saved through devices for the perfect working of

incubators. Too much faith is given the regulation of the work, and the operator neglects those things which require the application of brains, relying upon the automaton.

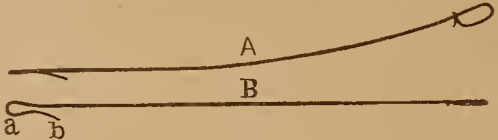
I know of a case where a man had a six-hundred-egg incubator ready to hatch in twelve hours. The eggs were fertile, and the animal heat of so many chicks necessitated extinguishing the flames of the lamp. He was urged to remain up all night to watch the incubator. He refused to do so, and the result was a failure, when he was almost sure of securing nearly five hundred chicks, which might have brought him anywhere from \$150 to \$250. The same man sat up two whole nights to save a litter of scrub pigs worth only one tenth the amount he might have realized from the chicks.

It is the care and attention bestowed on the raising of young chicks in the winter that permits some operators to be very successful, and it is the lack of attention that makes winter-hatched chicks grow slowly, or perhaps die from some unknown cause. Chicks cannot be raised in winter as easily as in spring, unless the operator is willing to devote plenty of work, both day and night, to their care, and when this is done he will secure a profit to amply reward him for his perseverance.

Do not be afraid to help the regulator with the work of hatching. Regulators are excellent contrivances, but the operator is the main dependence.

CROOK FOR CATCHING FOWLS.

A cheap and handy contrivance for catching fowls is to make a crook, six or seven feet long, of heavy wire, as shown in the illustration, A being a side view and B a top view, from a to b being six inches. When the fowls are feeding, slide the crook on the ground toward the one you have selected, hook it around one of its legs,



pull it gradually to you, and release it with the other hand. A crook properly made will enable you to easily catch any size of fowl, from a Bantam to a Light Brahma.

The design is from Mr. H. E. Harris, New Jersey.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Varieties of Bantams.—E. W. C., Ailsa Craig, Ontario, writes: "1. How many different varieties of Bantams are there? 2. Has the Black African Bantam white ear-lobes? 3. Give points of Black African Bantam."

REPLY:—1. There are fourteen standard varieties—Booted White, Black Cochins, White Cochins, Buff Cochins, Partridge Cochins, Game, Silver Sebright, Golden Sebright, Japanese White, Japanese Black, Japanese Black-tail, Rose-comb Black (African), Rose-comb White, and White-crested White Polish. 2. Yes. 3. Rose-comb, white ear-lobes, black plumage, legs black or dark lead color.

Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks.—Mrs. T. L., Chesterville, Ohio, writes: "Which is the better breed for laying, Wyandottes or Plymouth Rocks? I wish to select for next year."

REPLY:—It would be difficult to state which breed is superior, as there is little or no difference, both breeds having their friends, who are firm in claiming excellence for them.

Number of Hens on a Lot—Caponizing.—R. McC., Mercer, Mo., writes: "How many hens should be kept on a lot 60x120 feet?—At what age should chicks be caponized?"

REPLY:—Such a space should contain not over fifty fowls.—It depends on the breed. It should be done before the comb begins to develop, or when about three months old.

Redcaps.—E. A. R., Lorain, Ohio, writes: "Are Redcaps equal to Leghorns as layers, and what is the difference in weight between them? Do they become broody?"

REPLY:—Redcaps are larger than Leghorns, the males weighing about seven and one half pounds. They are non-sitters, do not become broody, and are fully equal to the Leghorns as layers, but are not as hardy.

A Log Poultry-house.—J. Mc. writes: "1. Will logs hewed eight inches square, used for building, with lime mortar plastered between the logs, make a serviceable house? 2. How many fowls can I keep in a house 12x24 feet? 3. Should the floor be of earth or boards? I live in British Columbia."

REPLY:—1. A log house can be made very warm and comfortable. 2. About thirty hens would be sufficient, as it does not pay to have too many together. 3. Earth floors, covered with litter, are equal to boards, and no vermin will be harbored.



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Our Fireside.

TO MY DOG "BLANCO."

My dear, dumb friend, low lying there,
A willing vassal at my feet,
Glad partner of my home and fare,
My shadow in the street.

I look into your great brown eyes,
Where love and loyal homage shine,
And wonder where the difference lies
Between your soul and mine.

For all of good that I have found
Within myself, or humankind,
Hath royally informed and crowned
Your gentle heart and mind.

I scan the whole broad earth around
For that one heart, which, leal and true,
Bears friendship without end or bound,
And find the prize in you.

I trust you as I trust the stars:
Nor cruel loss, nor scoff, nor pride,
Nor beggary, nor dungeon bars
Can move you from my side.

As patient under injury
As any Christian saint of old,
As gentle as a lamb with me,
But with your brothers bold.

More playful than a frolic boy,
More watchful than a sentinel,
By day and night your constant joy
To guard and please me well.

I clasp your head upon my breast—
The while you whine and lick my hand—
And thus our friendship is confessed,
And thus we understand.

Ah, Blanco! Did I worship God
As truly as you worship me,
Or follow where my master trod
With your humility?

Did I sit fondly at his feet
As you, dear Blanco, sit at mine,
And watch him with a love as sweet,
My life would grow divine.

—J. G. Holland, in the Boston Transcript.

BEN DALTON'S FARM.

A Story of Rural Life.

BY JOHN R. MUSICK.

Author of "The Columbian Historical Novels," "Back to the Old Farm," "Helen Lakeman," "Orland Hyde," etc., etc.

CHAPTER I.

THE GOLDEN HARVEST.

It was the season of gold. The golden flowers bloomed in the meadows and at the wayside; the golden wheat was in the stack; the corn, still a rich, dark green, was changing to gold; the orchards were groaning with golden fruit, and the sky a sea of gold. It seemed nature's halleluiahs, and the birds sang from morning till night, and brooklets babbled and laughed in their course. It was a season of rejoicing and thanksgiving, and all nature seemed as gay and glad as at springtime. And why not? It was the season of ripened harvests, and the fulfillment of the promises of God and nature.

The beauty of that time lies in the country. In fact, at all times the greatest beauty is in the rural districts. "God made the country, and man built cities," says some wise person. Real beauty is only found in God's work. The poet and painter seldom seek after beauty in the cities, but in the hills and fields, the sea, and scenes of rural life.

No painter ever produced a more beautiful picture than could have been seen at Ben Dalton's gate on that golden noontide. Ben Dalton was a young farmer. He was not wealthy, but one of those strong, majestic young men so often found in the country. His dark gray eyes, broad, high brow, and frank, open face bronzed by wind and sun, had about them something attractive and inspiring.

His home was humble, but neat and attractive. The house was small, but new, as the paint would indicate. There were hickory and walnut trees growing in the yard. The barn was neat and tasty, and the cow-lot was made of new, fresh boards. The fields were new and the orchard was promising, though not a tree in it was old enough to bear fruit. The farm, like the owner, was young. He was proud of it, and had just cause to be, for while it was not large, and did not evince wealth or ease, it bore evidence of youth, thrift and promise.

Ben stood at the gate, his horse, with the saddle on his back, at his side. One arm was through the bridle-rein, while he talked with his young and pretty wife, standing just within the gate, holding their babe, their first-born, not yet one year old, in her arms, for the young father to kiss. The infant screamed with delight when the father playfully took it in his arms and placed it in the saddle.

"Be careful with him, Ben; he is such a romp, he will jump out of your arms if you don't watch him," cautioned the wife.

With a laugh, the bappy young farmer responded:

"Look at the little rascal, how he clings to Dick's mane. I believe he would enjoy a gallop."

"He would. He always watches the horses when they are in sight."

"Come now, sir, that will do for once. You must get down," and the farmer made an effort to pull the baby from the horse; but it clung to the saddle with its tiny hands, and set up a yell which made the sturdy old roadster prick up his ears. The young father laughed, pulled his infant from the seat, kissed it, and gave it, protesting, with squeals and kicks, into its mother's arms.

"What time will you be back, Ben?" the wife asked.

"Some time to-night, Lizzie."

"Don't stay so late."

"Why, Lizzie, I never stay later than I can help," he answered.

There was a slight cloud on the face of the pretty wife which he did not like to see. His own face, bright, hopeful and happy but a moment before, became shadowed for an instant, just as the sun is sometimes darkened by a passing cloud. But directly it brightened, and he added, with a laugh:

"Don't worry about me, dear; I shall be home in due time, never fear."

Again kissing wife and child, he leaped into the saddle and galloped down the hill, occasionally turning to cast a parting glance at the loved ones still standing at the gate. When a bend in the road took him out of sight of the

since we were married, and the old folks are so anxious to see the baby."

The reader must excuse Ben for believing his child the most wonderful baby that ever lived. It is a fault common with parents. There are few young parents who do not think their children the most marvelous children in the world, and Ben was no exception to the rule. A happy smile flitted over his face when he thought of the surprise and wonder on the faces of the grandparents and uncles and aunts when they beheld little Harry. Then how proud he would be to tell them he had bought his home, and paid for it in three years.

Lizzie's father was a practical old Pennsylvania farmer, and when John Dalton sent his son Ben to college, he predicted that it would spoil him for a farmer.

"Don't seem to me that colleges are any good, only to make young fellows believe they are too smart to work," he declared.

But Ben came back avowing his determination to follow his original desire and be a farmer. When asked why he wasted his time and father's money in college if he only intended to be a farmer, he answered that it was essential for a farmer to have a college education as well as any other person. Instead of making him averse to the life of a farmer, his college course seemed to make him more determined to follow his calling.

Ben was of a poetical turn. The lowing of cattle, bleating of sheep, neighing of horses and sounds of the barn-yard were to him the most delightful music that could fall upon

Ben Dalton had last seen him, two years before, he was a clerk in a drug-store in his native village in the western part of the state of New York.

Jack Ralston grasped the hard, rough hand of the honest farmer, his former schoolmate, in his own soft palm, and with eyes flashing with pleasure, said:

"Well, well, Ben Dalton, by George! this is a pleasure I had not expected. Where do you live?"

"About three miles and a half from here," he answered.

"By jove! I had no idea I was in your neighborhood, or I would have taken the pains to hunt you up. Where are you going, Ben?"

"To the city."

"Will your horse lead?"

"Yes."

"Then get in with me and let him follow behind. I want to talk with you. It seems an age since I saw you, and there are a thousand things I wanted to speak with you about, so climb in."

Before he had finished his sentence, the active young farmer had thrown himself from the saddle, and was seated by his side.

"I hear that you are married, Ben," Jack remarked, when he was seated at his side.

"Yes, I have been married over two years, and have a baby almost a year old."

"Good news. I am still a bachelor, I am sorry to say."

"Are you in the drug-store yet?"

"No."

"Have one of your own?" Ben asked, innocently.

"No; I am not in the business now," he answered, with a proud flash of the eye. Then added in a confidential tone, "All that is past. In other words, I have struck luck."

Ben glanced suspiciously at his friend's attire and general get-up.

"Oh, you set me down as a sport," said Jack, with a laugh, as he gathered up the reins and let the horses out at a rate of speed that put Dick to his best to keep pace with the flying vehicle. Then he took two unquestionable Havanas from his pocket, and offered one to the young farmer at his side.

Ben shook his head.

"What, you haven't acquired that accomplishment yet? But, perhaps Mrs. Dalton's influence explains it all. This makes me feel bad," he added, returning one cigar and lighting the other. "Of course, you don't drink. I have some champagne, but I'll be hanged if I will crack a bottle and let you go dry." After a few puffs he added: "Well, Ben, who would have thought it? Here you are, a sober, quiet farmer, a pretty wife and bouncing baby, working hard and saving your money, while I am a gay, old celibate lately clerking for hash and lodging. But there are ways and means, you know, of equalizing these differences, and yet perfectly legitimate."

Ben said nothing, but waited to hear what the ways and means were. Dalton continued in almost the same breath:

"Speculation, my boy, speculation; it beats farming, gambling or any common business all to pieces. Why, will you believe it, Ben, two years ago I hadn't twenty dollars to my name?"

"You must have been lucky, Jack," said Ben, looking at his friend's gorgeous watch-chain and seal ring, as if in tacit admission that a bank

account must lie at the back of it. As he looked upon his friend, he could hardly keep from envying him his easy position in life. The value of that ring and watch-chain would easily pay the remainder on his farm, and relieve his soul of its only burden. And this fellow wore them as any ornaments, mere toys, things of pleasure and vanity, as if they were of no value. After he had given him a careful survey, he repeated:

"You must have been very lucky, Jack."

"Well, Ben, I was. I was lucky in being shrewd enough to get on the inside."

"How?"

"Oh, it's easy enough, you know, when you have a friend to help you."

"You had one?"

"Yes."

"How much did you start with?"

"I had but twelve dollars to my name, but ten was all I wanted. Ten was all I used, and that ten dollars has made me nearly half a million."

"Why, Jack," cried Ben, his eyes growing round with wonder. "What is that you say?"

Jack laughed softly, took one more turn on the reins, and said in his gentlest manner:

"It's all plain sailing, my dear fellow, when you get a tip, you know."

"How did you make so much money? What was the nature of your speculation?"

"The turf, my boy, the turf. Fortunes are made there every day."

A frown came over the face of the honest young farmer, and he said:

"I don't believe in it, Jack. Where it makes one man rich, it makes nine beggars."

Jack's fat hand fell on the knee of his friend, and with a laugh he answered:



"I BELIEVE HE WOULD ENJOY A GALLOP."

bouse, he drew rein and gazed over the fields of golden grain, meadows and pastures.

"Mine, all mine," he murmured, his heart beating proudly, "or it will be as soon as I have paid the eight hundred remaining, and the crop, cattle and hogs will easily do that."

Ben Dalton was a poor young farmer, but he was ambitious. Never, perhaps, was there a man with a greater or more noble ambition. He had no desire to be a leader in politics, to rule a nation or state; he had no ambition to win honors as a soldier on the battle-field, as an orator or in literature. His ambition was higher and loftier than all these. He wanted to be rated as an honest man, and be one of the best and most prosperous farmers in the country.

These noble desires promised fulfillment, and his hope and happiness seemed unbounded. All about him was golden, save age. He was not yet twenty-five years old, and his wife had not reached twenty. There was not a young man in Franklin county with more brilliant prospects. He would not have exchanged places with the governor of the state. Why should he? With Ben there was peace, happiness and love, and why should he care to exchange these for the cares of state, which were shortening the days of the great man in the gubernatorial chair.

Dick browsed on the bushes and rosin-weed which grew in the fence corners, while the master of this small domain gazed proudly over his possessions and repeated:

"It is all mine. I can easily pay off the Joel Darrow debt of eight hundred purchase-money, and then have enough left to take Lizzie back to Pennsylvania to see her father and mother. Poor girl, she hasn't been back

his ears. The grinding, crashing roar of the city was discordant to him, and he longed for the fresh air and quiet life of the farm.

Beautiful as the scene before him was on this golden noon, he could not always feast his eyes upon it. He turned his horse's head toward the road and galloped away.

"I will see Darrow's agent and reduce the amount two hundred to-day," he thought. "It will be easier to pay then."

There was a large, red-leather pocket-book in his inside pocket. It contained the money for his early shipment of cattle.

"When I pay this two hundred he is to make the deed, and take a mortgage for the rest," he thought; "I will certainly be a happy man when I get that deed."

Three miles from his home he entered the great turnpike which led to the city. The turnpike presented a brilliant scene. There were vehicles of every description, going to and from the city distant but a few miles. Men on horseback and on foot were traversing the great thoroughfare. Some were fresh and vigorous, others weary with long travel. Some were young and in the morning of life, others bowed down with age, and approaching the sunset of earthly existence.

"Hello, Ben Dalton! is that you?" roared a merry voice from a buggy which drew up alongside the horse he was riding.

"Jack Ralston, as I live!" Ben cried.

Jack Ralston was an old college chum, a hearty, whole-souled fellow, and evidently at this time in high clover. He had an elegant turnout, the blooded bays were spirited animals, and the shining harness were silver-mounted. He was handsomely dressed, with a faint suggestion of the sport about him. When

"Who ever disputed the fact. Bless me! when I slapped that ten dollars on the horse that won, if I didn't feel the cold chills run all over me. What if he had come out second, or third, had been jockeyed or suddenly gone lame, I would have been ruined, that was all."

"You was a fool for doing it, that's all," Ben declared.

Jack Ralston stroked his mustache for a moment, and answered:

"Well, maybe I was, but one can afford to be a fool for two hundred and fifty thousand a year."

"Two hundred and fifty thousand?" cried Ben, turning his eyes on the speaker. "Why, a hundred thousand dollars is more than I can ever expect to be worth."

With a laugh his friend replied:

"Ben, you are silly to settle down on a farm, and be content with a mere living, when you might be worth thousands, and keep out of the sun's rays in summer and the freezing blasts of winter."

With a laugh Ben answered:

"Bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

CHAPTER II. A CLOUD.

Notwithstanding Ben declared that a "bird in the hand was worth two in the bush," the remark of the turfman rang in his ears. The spirit of speculation, which, after all, is a gambling spirit, and requires the best judgment to guide it in legitimate channels, is strong in nearly every human breast. As he sat by the side of his friend, who he knew did not possess shrewdness nor intelligence superior to himself, he wondered how he could have acquired a fortune in such a short time, while he was struggling with might and main to pay off a debt of only eight hundred dollars. Jack mentioned frequent races in which his winnings had been three times that amount in a single hour.

One hour at the race-track was worth three years on the farm. But Ben had been instructed in the strictly moral school, and believed gambling of all kinds absolutely wicked; but he could not help wishing that he could make such a lucky strike and pay off the balance on his farm.

"Now, Ben," Jack continued, as they entered the suburbs of the city, "you are a good judge of horse-flesh, and ought to make a splendid turfman."

Ben Dalton was an admirer of good horses. He not only liked a good horse, but he loved to see a swift animal run. It was not the gambling spirit which had induced him when a boy to ride horses at the roadside races, but the mere love of racing. He had great confidence in his own judgment of the good qualities of a horse, and knew that Jack was not trying to flatter him.

"I have always been a good judge of farm-horses," said Ben, "but never thought of using that judgment to make money."

"Now you are using the right word, Ben," Jack answered. "Judgment is the proper term. After all, it is judgment more than luck. A man goes in and studies horses just as a student studies books. He gets their record and time, and puts all things together, goes in, and if there is no accident, wins."

"But an accident cannot be guarded against."

"Not always. But sometimes even accidents may be studied, and to a great advantage, too. I once knew that a certain horse would go lame. Found it out in the most natural way imaginable. The veterinary surgeon had been up with him all the night before. I reasoned that he would start off with a spurt, but if they had trouble in the starting, his lameness would develop before he made the first quarter. He was a favorite, and great odds were offered in his favor. I put up heavy against him, with the field at my back, and raked in twenty-five thousand dollars in one hour."

"Twenty-five thousand!" cried the young farmer, opening his eyes wide in amazement. "Yes, all in one hour."

The amount was more than he could hope to acquire in a lifetime. Somehow the glitter of that ring and flash of the gold watch-chain seemed to strangely fascinate the young farmer, and he began to wish himself in the place of his friend. That little farm with its golden grain and plain little house was losing its charm, and appeared poor and insignificant.

"Don't you ever lose, Jack?" he asked, cautiously.

"Lose!" cried Jack Ralston, with a laugh. "Why, of course I lose; who don't? But I always cover my losses by doubling my bets. I have frequently got the hot end of the poker; but it is generally on something which I have not made a careful study of, and then I put up only a small amount, so that my losses are small compared with my winnings. Why, I have often thrown away five thousand dollars just to study a horse."

"Five thousand!" Ben shrugged his shoulders. Five thousand was a great fortune to him. He could hardly expect that much in five years.

The "Farmer's Retreat," where he usually stabled his horse, and took his dinner on coming to the city, was passed before he hardly knew it, and Jack would insist on leaving their horses at a fashionable barn, and asked his friend to go with him to the track.

"At three-thirty there will be something interesting," he argued. "It will do you no

harm to see it. I have a pass to the track, and it shall cost you nothing to go."

"But I am to call on Mr. Woods on business."

"We can go to his office first, I daresay."

It was with some reluctance that Ben consented to accompany him after he had called on Mr. Woods. Ben was sure that he would feel better when he had paid the two hundred dollars which he carried in his pocket to the agent of Mr. Darrow. All the while he seemed peculiarly impressed that his life was insignificant compared with the man who could boast of his thousands. He feared that if he should tell Jack of his two hundred dollars, he would smile with incredulity.

"Where is the office of Woods?" his friend asked.

"On the corner of Cherry and Walnut," was the answer.

"All right, the street-cars run past his door. Come, now, let us board this one." When they were comfortably seated in the car, the sport resumed: "I spent a few months in New York. I went on Wall street and commenced the bucket-shop business first, but I soon got in the exchange, and made quite a little sum before I left. But it is no more honest, and not half as safe as the turf, so I came back to my legitimate business."

"Now that you have made a fortune, Jack, why don't you quit?" asked Ben.

"Quit! Why, my dear boy, what should I do if I did quit?" he asked. "I must do something, and had just as well do this as nothing."

"But you might suffer a change some time. Luck might go against you."

The gambler emitted a thin, spiral cloud from his mouth, as he answered:

"Why, my dear boy, I don't believe in luck. In this line of business all you have to do is to study your game, and never lose your head. Keep cool and follow your judgment. The man who does that wins; the man who gets rattled always loses in any business."

"Here we are at Mr. Woods' office," said Ben.

He rang for the car to stop. Both got out and walked to the door of the real-estate office. It was closed and locked, and white crape with black border was tied on the knob.

"There has been a death in the family. It was a child," said Ralston. "Confound it, let's go away. I never like to look at a death-bag," and the gambler shuddered.

As they turned away, and Ben gave the crape a glance, he thought of his own little one at home, and his eyes grew moist for a moment, and his heart went out in sympathy for the grief-stricken parents.

"I am sorry he is not here," he said. "I had some business to transact with him."

"What was it?" asked Jack, innocently.

"I wanted to pay him some money. It's a payment of two hundred dollars on my farm."

"Oh, you can do that at any time. He will always be willing to receive it, so come, let's go to the races, and stay an hour or so, then you can go home in plenty of time."

Ben still hesitated. To him it seemed wrong. The two hundred dollars which he carried in the inside pocket of his coat belonged to his wife and child, and it seemed a crime to take it to a race-track. Noticing his hesitation, Jack Ralston asked:

"Why don't you come on, old boy? This is my treat. I will pay your expenses."

He had nothing to lose, and he did not care to go home for an hour or so. It would appear rude in him to decline the invitation of his friend, and so he decided to go. They leaped into a passing car and sped down the street across the network of railroads, and then over the hill to a suburban part of town.

Once more they saw trees growing. A small park with a man hurrying through it, then the great gasworks, and over the hill the vast race-track, all inclosed by a high wall, loomed up before them.

His friend kept up a rattling conversation all the time, discussing the qualities of horses, and how fortunes were made and lost with them.

"Black Partridge is the coming horse," he declared. "People in this part of the country don't realize the worth of that animal. He will surprise the world some day, you can depend on it. But here we are right at the gate. Come in."

In a few moments Ben found himself inside the gate in the midst of a throng of ladies and gentlemen. All seemed in an excellent good humor. Many were meeting other friends, and there arose such a babel of tongues that one could scarce hear anything. They made their way down to the amphitheater, where they took seats. Jack bought a score-card of a boy, and glancing over the first race, said:

"There is Lucy L., Jack Long, Sir Knight and Merry-legs in this race. It's but a small affair, and won't amount to much."

"Which do you say will win?" asked a stranger sitting near him.

"Merry-legs."

"How much will you go on her?"

"What do you want to put up?"

"If you back Merry-legs against the field, I will go you two hundred dollars."

"I'll do it."

"Will you hold the stakes?" asked the stranger, turning to Ben.

"Yes, sir."

He did not realize that he was a party to the gambling, until the four hundred dollars were in his hand. There was some difficulty in get-



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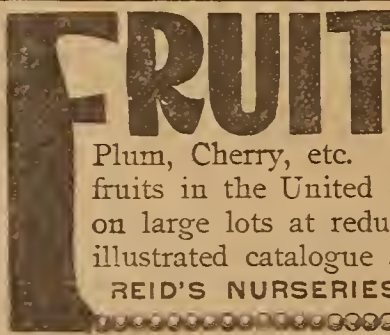
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(Concluded on page 9.)



No. 1.



No. 2.

ting the horses started, but after two or three false starts, the man at the stand cried, "Go!" and they were off. There was the usual excitement. Men yelled and shouted themselves hoarse. Ben, who partook of the excitement himself, could not understand how his friend could remain so unperturbed. While others were jumping up and yelling, he coolly sat in his seat, smoking a cigar as if he had no interest whatever in the race. Merry-legs won, and Jack, in an unconcerned manner, pocketed the money, and said:

"Now, Ben, let's go down to the book-makers and see how pools are selling."

Ben followed him. He watched his friend. Jack looked over the list for the next race, and placed six hundred dollars on Midget. Ben was by this time thoroughly excited. He was thinking of his little farm, how anxious his wife was to see her parents, and how they could not go until the remainder of the purchase-money was paid for their farm. He knew it would be such infinite pleasure to her to know that the last dollar was paid, and Ben's greatest pleasure was in making others happy. If he could win as much as his friend had put up on Midget, he might easily pay off the mortgage. By a sudden impulse he thrust his hand in his pocket, drew out the red-leather pocket-book, took out a ten-dollar bill and placed it on the little mare that Jack was risking six hundred upon, and won. Next race he watched his friend, doubled his bet, and won again.

"Thirty dollars in an hour is not so bad," he thought.

At last the famous Black Partridge race was called. The book-makers were busy. All was excitement. Jack put up a thousand on the favorite, and Ben placed fifty. After two or three false starts, they were off like a whirlwind, and when the last quarter was reached, Black Partridge was a length ahead, and doing splendidly, but suddenly he stumbled, went to his knees, sending the rider flying over his head. The little fellow was picked up in an unconscious state, and Dick C. won the race.

"We have lost," said Ben to Jack, his face white as chalk.

"Yes," Jack answered coolly. "We must learn to take the bitter with the sweet. But for that stumble Black Partridge would have come in. That's one of the accidents we can't count on. How much did you have on him?"

"Fifty dollars."

"Oh, that's nothing."

Ben thought it a great deal. He had won thirty dollars, and lost fifty, a net loss of twenty, when, if he had won, he would have made a gain of eighty. He felt a little sheepish at having been induced to put up any money at all. When a gambler first starts in the business he is never penitent until he begins to lose, then he suddenly becomes penitent; but a reaction usually sets in, and he is seized with an insane desire to recover his losses. In the next race Jack won two thousand dollars.

"I am about sixteen hundred dollars ahead, so I think I will quit," he said to Ben. "Pretty fair for one day."

Ben went home with a shadow on his brow, which his wife was quick to observe. Not one cent had been paid on the farm, and he was twenty dollars short on the payment. He, of course, kept that a secret from his wife. Whenever a husband begins to keep secrets from his wife, he is entering on dangerous ground.

He went back to the city two or three days later intending to pay the one hundred and eighty dollars on the debt, but the agent said that according to contract and instructions from Mr. Darrow, he was not to take any payment of less than two hundred dollars.

"Very well, I will raise the twenty and make the payment soon," he said, leaving the office of the agent, with a load heavier than lead on his heart.

[To be continued.]

THE COST OF BAD ROADS.

The office of road inquiry of the Department of Agriculture has completed an interesting investigation relating to the use of the common roads of the United States. Returns have been received from about 1,200 counties, showing the average length of haul from farms to markets or shipping-points to be twelve miles; the average weight of load for two horses, 2,002 pounds; and the average cost per ton per mile, twenty-five cents, or \$2 for the entire haul. Estimating the farm products at 219,824,227 tons in weight, and making estimates on other articles carried over the public roads, it is calculated that the aggregate expense of this transportation in the United States is \$946,414,665 per annum. Reports have been asked from the United States consuls abroad of the expense of hauling where the roads are good, so as to render possible a calculation which will show how much of this large outlay is due to bad roads. The estimate is ventured, however, upon information in the office of road inquiry, counting the loss of time in reaching markets, the enforced idleness and the wear and tear to live stock and hauling machinery caused by poor roads, that two thirds of the cost might be saved by an improvement of the roads.

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The river Ganges is noted for the mysterious virtue of its waters, which is considered so sacred that Hindus carry it to remote parts of the earth, and in a court of justice in strange countries insist on being sworn by it, as Christians use the Bible, to ratify an oath. At the city of Benares, on the banks of the Ganges, thousands of pilgrims assembled to bathe away their sins in the miraculous water. As a product of nature the Ganges is a wonderful stream. It finds its source in the Himalaya mountains, the water flowing out of a cave of ice at the bottom of a glacier. Its length is fifteen miles, and fifteen miles from the sea the delta of the Ganges begins, by the river separating into two parts. Between the different sections are numerous islands, called Sunderbunds, which are covered with rank and poisonous vegetation known as jungle, where no one can exist, so unhealthy is the air. Yet in spite of this the water flowing through that district where the atmosphere is rank with fever, is valued highly on account of its rare medicinal qualities.

Another noted and historic river is the Jordan, which is considered sacred on account of the baptism of Christ in its waters. It is to Palestine what the Nile is to Egypt. Its natural phenomena are its annual rise and rapid descent. It is also noted for its serpentine course, which measures in actual distance 200 miles, although straight across it is but sixty miles in length. The Jordan is below the level of the ocean, and the Dead sea, into which it empties, is a mile below the surface of the Mediterranean. There are twenty-seven rapids in its course, and from the Dead sea to Lake Tiberias it has a fall of 1,050 feet. Its high banks are covered with a dense growth of tamarisks and willows, as if to seclude its sacred waters from prying eyes. A sight to be remembered by those who have seen it is the assembling of pilgrims—often to the number of 8,000 or 9,000—who come from Jerusalem under a guard of Turkish soldiers to bathe in the waters of the Jordan. They are pilgrims of the Greek church.—*Detroit Free Press.*

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JAPANESE CLIMBING CUCUMBER—A wonderful variety from Japan, and will climb a trellis, wire netting, or any support 5 to 8 feet. Fruits early and continually; long, tender, excellent for pickling. Please all, and a wonderful curiosity.

GOLDEN TOM THUMB POP-CORN—A perfect little wonder, grows 18 inches high, produces several golden ears to each stalk, excellent for popping.

\$250.00 FOR EARLY TOMATOES. This wonderful Early Tomato has proved a great success for earliness, smoothness and quality. Perfect ripe fruit has been produced in less than 50 days. We offer \$250 for ripe tomatoes grown in the least number of days from day seed is planted. Full instructions with seed. We own it all.

We will send one whole potato (packed from frost), and one packet each of All Head Cabbage and Surehead Cabbage, Japanese Climbing Cucumber, Early Tomato, and one Ear of Tom Thumb Pop Corn, with our great Seed Catalogue for 1896 (full of Bargains) for 25c.

Floral Calendar, 8 colors, Free, if you send money order or silver.

FAIRVIEW SEED FARM, Box 53, ROSE HILL, N. Y.

Floral Calendar, 8 colors, Free, if you send money order or silver.

FAIRVIEW SEED FARM, Box 53, ROSE HILL, N. Y.



No. 3.



No. 4.

Has the genuine American ring—tells the plain truth—a genuine up-to-date farm paper, with a million readers—bright, clean, progressive and patriotic, and has no use for monopolies. Cut this out and send 10c's for 2 months, and a fine portrait of George Washington, Farmer and Father of his Country, send 20c's more and get a beautiful silk American Flag, 8 x 12 in. Come, be one of OUR FOLKS. Farm Journal, Phila. Pa.

Our Household.

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP.

The fire upon the hearth is low,
And there is stillness everywhere;
Like troubled spirits, here and there
The firelight shadows fluttering go.
And as the shadows round me creep,
A childish treble breaks the gloom,
And softly from a farther room
Comes, "Now I lay me down to sleep."

And, somehow, with that little prayer
And that sweet treble in my ears,
My thought goes back to distant years,
And lingers with a dear one there;
And as I hear the child's amen,
My mother's faith comes back to me,
Crouched at her side I seem to be,
And mother holds my hands again.

Oh for an hour in that dear place!
Oh for the peace of that dear time!
Oh for that childish trust sublime!
Oh for a glimpse of mother's face!
Yet, as the shadows round me creep,
I do not seem to be alone—
Sweet magic of that treble tone—
And "Now I lay me down to sleep."

—Eugene Field.

CRAPE-PAPER ARTICLES.

BONBON-BASKET.—Cut from medium-weight cardboard two oval pieces, cover one with a puffed piece of celestial-blue crape. Cut from the cardboard a two-inch strip long enough to encircle the oval pieces. To the lower edge of the strip paste a narrow piece of new muslin—half on the cardboard, the rest to join it to the bottom. When dry, join the strip with muslin, dry, and place the covered bottom in the ring. Paste the muslin well, and turn over the bottom; press smooth with the finger so that a firm box will be the result. When perfectly dry, cover the inside with a ruffle of blue three and one half inches, join the ruffle, and by means of a little paste along the lower edge press it close around the inner lower edge of the box. For the handles, cut five one-inch strips of olive-green crape, with the grain of the paper across the strips. When dry, insert wire the same length, and twist as for cord; divide for two handles; sew in place. Now cover the outside with a ruffle of blue a trifle wider than lining, to allow for turning over the edge of the bottom; paste the uncovered oval cardboard over this for a finish. Trim the basket with a cord of olive made like the handles, minus the wire, and paste around the sides like in illustration. Pull out the ruffles, and the basket is complete.

BONBON-BAG.—Cut two circles of cardboard two inches in diameter; cover one with white crape paper and the other with any desired color. Cut across the paper, a piece of white and one of color, nine inches long and eleven inches wide; join each piece neatly; slip white piece inside the color, and sew two rows one and a half inches from top, allowing room for the inserting of ribbon between the rows. Gather both pieces together at the lower



SQUARE BASKET.

edge with a double thread, draw up and fasten with the hand inside the bag; press it flat, and with a good deal of paste place the circle the color of the bag over this; press the edges well, and with paste on the white circle place it inside the bag, directly over the outside circle. Insert two pieces of baby ribbon with which to draw the bag. With the hand inside, puff the bag slightly; paste a bunch of French tissue violets the color of the bag on the front. This is a lovely little article to be used for candy at a child's party.

SQUARE BASKET.—Select a stout box the desired size (six inches square makes a

nice size), cut a piece of cardboard to fit the bottom, cover with a puffed piece of light coral crape-paper. Before inserting the bottom, paste along the inner lower edge of the sides of the box a ruffle of the pink paper deep enough to cover the side and stand one and one half inches above. Make a handle of olive-green, as described above, sew in place to the sides of the box, so that the ruffles will conceal the fastening; cover the outside with an olive-green ruffle cut slightly deeper than the lining, thus allowing the lower edge to be turned over the bottom and pasted; cover with white cardboard or white paper for a finish to the bottom. With a little paste, press both ruffles along the upper edge of the box; when dry, ruffle over the finger. Decorate the handle with a spray of pink and white morning-glories. Always remember that there is a decided right and wrong side to the crape paper, the wrong side being the satin finish of the right side.

M. E. SMITH.

LOW-NECKED, SHORT-SLEEVED UNDERVEST.

ABBREVIATIONS.—K, knit; p, purl; o, over; oo, over twice; p 2 tog, purl 2 together; n, narrow; st, stitch.

This undervest is made of Saxony yarn, six skeins being required for a vest for a child very tall and slim, from five to eight years of age.

Cast on 200 st—50 st on each of four medium-sized rubber, steel or bone knitting-needles, and knit with the fifth needle, joining together; knit once around plain.

Next round—* K 2 and p 2 st all around; repeat from * until the undervest is the full length required.

THE BODY.

When knit (340 rounds), it will be from ten to twelve inches wide and twenty-four long, with the edging around the bottom; knit once around plain.

THE BUST.

Make it in square blocks (4 st, and four rows for each block), and ten rows of blocks, about six inches deep (forty rows). Take 100 st and k back and forth, leaving it open at the sides for the armholes.

First and second rows—P 100 st; turn.

Third row—K 2, p 2, (k 4, p 4) eleven times; k 4, p 2, k 2; turn.

Fourth row—When going back, be very careful to knit the stitches that are purl and purl the stitches that are knit. Repeat every alternate row the same (fourth row like third row, sixth like fifth, eighth like seventh, and so on).

Fifth row—P 4, (k 4, p 4) twelve times; turn.

Seventh row—K 6, p 2, (k 4, p 4) ten times; k 4, p 2, k 6; turn.

Ninth row—P 8, (k 4, p 4) ten times; k 4, p 8; turn.

Eleventh row—K 10, p 2, (k 4, p 4) nine times; k 4, p 2, k 10; turn.

Thirteenth row—P 12, (k 4, p 4) nine times; k 4, p 12; turn.

Fifteenth row—K 14, p 2, (k 4, p 4) eight times; k 4, p 2, k 14; turn.

Seventeenth row—P 16, (k 4, p 4) eight times; k 4, p 16; turn.

Nineteenth row—K 18, p 2, (k 4, p 4) seven times; k 4, p 2, k 18; turn.

Twenty-first, twenty-ninth and thirty-seventh rows—P 20 st, (k 4, p 4) seven times; k 4, p 20; turn.

Twenty-third, thirty-first and thirty-ninth rows—K 20, (p 4, k 4) seven times; p 4, k 20; turn.

Twenty-fifth, thirty-third and forty-first rows—P 24, (k 4, p 4) six times; k 4, p 24; turn.

Twenty-seventh, thirty-fifth and forty-third rows—K 24, (p 4, k 4) six times; p 4, k 24; turn. Knit once back and forth plain.

Next row—K 20, and for the neck slip and bind off the next 60 st, and leave 20 st on the needle at each end, for the shoulder-

straps, and k the last 20 st back and forth the length required (twelve inches long—six inches for each side), before breaking off the material. K one row, p two rows and k one row (making only two rows, the same as k 2, p 2, etc.), then bind off and k the first strap the same.

THE BACK.

Take the other 100 st, knit back and forth; k 2, p 2 on the same st that are knit and purl, except at the end of each row begin with 3 st, and every other row increase 2 st more, until you have 20 st on needle; then k plain without an increase, same as the front side (forty rows), and join together, each st against the first strap; then slip and bind off the next 60 st; then join the last strap and 20 st together and fasten.

EDGING FOR BOTTOM.

Cast on 11 st, k once across plain.

First row—K 2, oo, p 2 tog, * k 1, o, n, o, n, k 2.

Second and all even rows—K plain to oo, p 2 tog, k 2.

Repeat the first and second rows, and at * increase 1 st more until it is up to k 6 st.

Thirteenth row—K 2, oo, p 2 tog, k 13.

Fourteenth row—Cast off 6 st, k 6, oo, p 2 tog, k 2.



UNDERVEST.

FOR THE NECK AND SLEEVES.

Repeat the first row, and at * increase 1 st more until it is up to k 4 only.

Ninth row—K 2, oo, p 2 tog, k 11.

Tenth row—Cast off 4 st, k 6, oo, p 2 tog, k 2.

Repeat from the beginning of first row and second row of both.

ELLA McCOWEN.

OUR WINDOWS.

Perhaps to a passing stranger nothing gives so correct an estimate of the occupants of a house or a room as the appearance of the windows. The observant passer-by forms an opinion at once as to the wealth, refinement and culture of the owner of that house by the furnishings of the windows. For instance, would you say that a lady possessed good taste if at one window she hung a bright green shade, at another a tan, at another a crimson, at another a white? It goes without saying that the shades of one room should all be of the same color. It goes without saying that the shades should all be of the same color for all the windows of the same house. In order to harmonize with the other furniture, then, they should all be of a neutral or delicate tint. Vary patterns of lace draperies with various rooms, but color of the shades, never.

A pretty conceit now is to make ten or a dozen buds, rosebuds, of pink or crimson crape-paper, and fasten them on stems of graded lengths, so that one reaches just below the other, tie them with narrow ribbon, and suspend them from the corner of a picture-frame, a swinging lamp or the window-shade.

Paper flowers are now works of real art. I saw the filmy lace of an expensive curtain caught back with a cluster of purple fleur-de-lis the other day, while its mate was drawn back and fastened with a spray of

water-lilies. Sometimes the curtains are caught back and bound with "a yard of roses" or a wreath of laurel or ivy leaves. You wouldn't believe how pretty the curtains look when bound back with these floral ropes.

Another pretty fancy is to loop back curtains with broad bands of China silk. The



BONBON-BAG.

prettiest are about six inches wide and hemstitched, the hems being from half an inch to an inch in width. In length they are as long as the width of the silk will permit, although if you want them longer it is allowable. Sometimes they are the colour de rose, sometimes hyacinth blue, sometimes peach pink, but more often of pure white.

Apropos of curtains, the more the better. You, of course, want your shades delicate green or tan or cream, and fringed, although next spring, dealers assure us, plain shades will again hold sway.

Next, of the finest, sheerest swiss, you make half curtains. (It is these half curtains that are caught back by the sashes.) These may be plain or frilled, to suit the fancy of the housekeeper. Some of the prettiest are so dainty that they look like cobwebs, and are edged with deep, full flounces. A casing left at the top and bottom permits these half curtains to be run on a brass rod, and they may either be drawn back at the bottom or loosely caught and confined in the center by these broad sashes just mentioned. Back of these hang the long, full lace fall. The finer, the daintier, the more gossamer-like those curtains all are, the more beautiful will be your window, and consequently your room.

Many people prefer to take down their lace curtains in the winter, claiming that they give a hard, cold appearance to the room. When the lace curtain is removed, a heavy crimson or warm-toned fabric is substituted. Very often the winter window drapery is of silk or silk brocade, of which material you may get very handsome pieces, which will last a lifetime, for a very moderate sum. These winter curtains are often lined with lace; an added elegance is thus obtained. The lace being, of course, placed next the window.

In handsome parlors you frequently see a green vine trained and twining gracefully through and over the rich laces. But many plants in the window are not permissible or even desirable. Palms are the piece de resistance. Nothing gives a richer or handsomer effect to a window than a thrifty palm. They are oriental in their suggestiveness. All other plants sink into comparative insignificance when contrasted with them, and as they are cheap and not at all difficult to manage, they should be much more universally cultivated. In-



BONBON-BASKET.

close the pot in an artistic jardiniere, and either set it upon the floor or on a small stand in the window. At the base of the table a few blooming plants might be placed, if wished; but if, on the contrary, nothing but foliage is desired, asparagus and ferns make the handsomest addition.

MARGARET M. MOORE.

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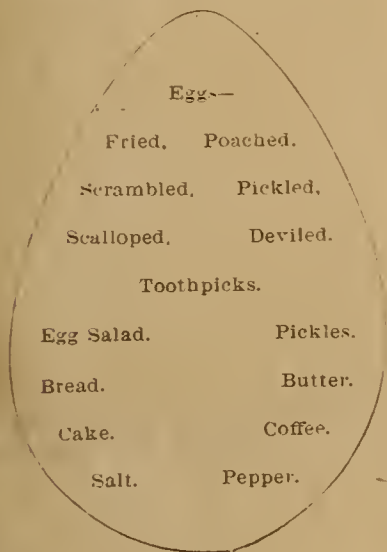
I sent for a shirt-waist pattern some time ago. Must say am very much pleased with it. It fits lovely. Miss LIZZIE MORRIS, Mauzy, Indiana.

A NOVELTY SOCIAL.

A very unique entertainment sure to prove attractive may be arranged for without a great deal of work. A simple menu is provided, such as sandwiches, pickles, cheese, doughnuts and coffee, the "novelty" being in the way in which the supper is served, not the supper itself. In serving it, paper or wooden plates from the bakery are used instead of china ones, steel forks instead of silver, tin cups for coffee, etc. The coffee is then served from new sprinkling or watering pots, with the spray or nozzle removed. Cream is served from the smallest-sized watering-pots; sugar from small tin pails. New clay pipes are thoroughly cleaned and scalded, to be used instead of teaspoons, and may be retained by guests as souvenirs. A square of newspaper is laid on a new, dark-colored dustpan, and the sandwiches are served on it. Doughnuts may be strung on small-sized broom-handles or on canes, and passed from guest to guest, eliciting much fun. Very small cucumber pickles may be served in very large wooden bowls with the largest-sized iron mixing-spoons, or they may be passed in glass jars, with a long, sharp stick to spear them with.

Any novelty in other entertainment that may suggest itself will prove a further attraction and make friends for the society or company who have charge of the entertainment, and insure them a good audience for future socials.

AN EGG SOCIAL is something new. The bill of fare for the supper should be written on heavy cardboard cut in the shape of a very large egg, and may be as follows:



People usually are very fond of corn in some preparation, and a corn supper is sure to attract a goodly number of persons, especially if some pleasant entertainment is furnished in addition to the supper, which may embrace the following:

- Mush and Milk.
- Fried Mush.
- Corn-fritters.
- Corn-cakes and Syrup.
- Corned Beef.
- Corn-pone.
- Hominy.
- Indian Pudding.
- Pop-corn.
- Pop-corn Balls.

A LITERARY TEA is a simple affair, and not at all as formidable as its title might indicate. Early in the evening cards are passed to the gentlemen bearing the names of some books. To the ladies are given cards bearing the names of authors, and each gentleman must hunt among the ladies for the author of his book. When found, he will escort the lady holding that card to the tea-table.

Another unique way of selecting partners, practised not long since at an Epworth League social, was as follows:

The ladies were placed behind a curtain, where they were entirely concealed excepting one foot of each, which were visible below the curtain, and the gentlemen, after inspecting the feet, chose that one which he liked the best, and thus became the escort of the lady belonging to it. It is needless to state that they all doubtless put "the best foot forward."

CLARA SENSIBAUGH EVERTS.

A MEDICINE-CASE.

We look for the usual amount of colds, sore throat, gripe and other ailments peculiar to this season of the year. Bad roads may also be expected, and the time consumed in getting a physician to a farmer's home in case of need is often of considerable duration. Many a case of long sickness might be avoided if there was a case of medicine in the house, and an intelligent hand to deal it out promptly, as occasion demanded, while awaiting the

arrival of a physician who is liable to be long on the road. Often simple home remedies, with proper carefulness from the patient, may restore usual health.

An almost necessary accompaniment to the medicine-case is the small thermometer used in taking a person's temperature. A record of an invalid's temperature during the time between a physician's visits is often of great value to him in determining the kind of fever he has to contend with. Where one has a hard chill, there may be expected a fever to follow, and the quicker remedies are applied to break a run of fever the better.

Ten drops of tincture of acouite in eight tablespoonfuls of water, and a dose of one teaspoonful per hour of this mixture, is a simple remedy to be used in fever. This portion for an adult, and for a little child five drops in eight tablespoonfuls of water, and a dose of one teaspoonful of the mixture per hour. This, in time, will produce sweating; and then be very careful of drafts or taking cold in any way.

In using quinine to break up a cold, be very careful not to expose oneself to danger of taking more while using it. The results are sometimes as bad as the original cold. Buy quinine in bulk and the capsules by the box, and fill them yourself; it is much cheaper. Many prefer synconidia

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It costs a little more, but with chapped hands and clothes weakened by the free alkali in common soaps, the house-keeper soon finds that Ivory Soap is the cheapest in the end.

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to quinine, as it does not seem to affect the head quite so unpleasantly, and it will give about the same result.

For the home remedies I would advise camphor, arnica, aconite, quinine or synconidia, wintergreen, peppermint, a good liniment of some kind, Jamaica ginger, pain-killer, a roll of court-plaster, and a bottle of good whisky or brandy, to be used only as a strictly medicinal aid.

And, as stated at the beginning of this article, medicines should be dealt out only by an intelligent hand; under such circumstances they render valuable aid, and may save a physician's fee by prompt and proper

usage, while a bungler might not only cause mischief, but endanger life, as some valuable medicines are rank poisons, and need to be used carefully and by those who understand their properties.

Every home should boast of a reliable medical work, and it should be read and studied. It seems a great mistake that the children should not be taught to know and understand themselves more fully than two thirds of them do. The laws of nature are not to be trifled with, unless some mischief to the system is apt to follow. While a medicine-case may be of invaluable aid in helping nature at times, a better way would be to study how not to transgress nature's laws.

GYPSY.



General Harrison's National Articles

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For the first time in our history an ex-President of the United States takes up the pen to write a successive series of magazine articles. In them he crystallizes a lifetime of study and observation of our country. Begun in the Christmas (December) number of

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Our Household.

THE SINGING IN GOD'S ACRE.

Out yonder in the moonlight, wherein God's acre lies,
Go angels walking to and fro, singing their lullabies.
Their radiant wings are folded, and their eyes are bended low,
As they sing among the beds whereon the flowers love to grow—

"Sleep, oh, sleep!
The shepherd guardeth his sheep.
Fast speedeth the night away,
Soon cometh the glorious day;
Sleep, weary ones, while ye may—
Sleep, oh, sleep!"

The flowers within God's acre see that fair and wondrous sight,
And hear the angels singing to the sleepers through the night;
And lo! throughout the hours of day those gentle flowers prolong
The music of the angels in that tender slumber song—

"Sleep, oh, sleep!"
—Eugene Field.

HOME TOPICS.

QUICK BREAKFASTS.—For six months circumstances had been such that I was obliged to have help in the kitchen. At last I felt it was no longer necessary, and glad indeed was I to be freed from the bondage. It was winter, and one member of the family must take an early train into the city every morning, which necessitated an early breakfast, and also a good, substantial one. My kitchen could be heated from the furnace, so I was able to use my oil-gas stove, and thus no time was lost in building fires and waiting for heat. The oatmeal was cooked while getting the five-

ful of flour; stir it until a smooth cream, then pour into it a cupful of rich milk, and as soon as it boils, season with pepper and salt and put in the sliced cold potatoes.

Another way is to cut the potatoes into slices or cubes, have ready some smoking-hot fat, put a few of the potatoes in at a time, and as soon as they are brown, lift them out with a skimmer and put in more. Season the potatoes with salt and pepper after taking them from the fat, and keep hot until served.

Cold boiled or baked potatoes may be sliced into a pie-pan, seasoned with salt and pepper and three or four spoonfuls of cream poured over them, then the pan set in a hot oven until the potatoes are very hot.

Cold mashed potatoes may be made into croquettes with an egg and fine bread crumbs, then fried.

There are many nice, inexpensive breakfast dishes which can be prepared from leftovers, but which the average servant will not take the trouble to prepare. It needs a delicate hand to give just the right seasoning, shape and color to croquettes, omelets, etc., but their dainty toothsome repays for the trouble. Croquettes, hash, etc., should be made ready over night. Cold roasts, after the nice slices have been cut from them, pieces

of flour, with two teaspoonfuls of baking-powder. One cupful of rye-meal and one cupful of Graham flour may be used, or one cupful of corn-meal and two spoonfuls of fine flour. These muffins will bake in fifteen minutes in a hot oven. From these recipes, an occasional steak and eggs cooked in various ways, with hot cocoa or coffee, a nice breakfast was prepared in twenty-five



LINEN CENTERPIECE.

or thirty minutes. And then it was worth a great deal to have a bright and tidy kitchen all to yourself; everything done just to a turn, not burned or half cooked, and the aroma in the coffee instead of the kitchen.

NAME YOUR FARM.—Those who have studied the matter agree that there is great power in names. This idea should be taken advantage of by naming our farm homes. It will make the name of home more tangible, and the children will cling to it with a greater love. If we have any constant product to sell, as milk, butter, fruit, honey, etc., it becomes known by the farm name, and gives honor to the farm if the product is always of the finest quality. The practice of giving the farm a distinctive title has long been customary throughout the South. The name should be pleasant to the ear and suggestive of the best or most pleasant feature of the farm. Let the grove that adds so much to the beauty, the spring, brook, lake, hill or valley which contributes to its scenery, be commemorated in the name. Among the names of farms which are in my acquaintance are Cedar Hill, Bellemont, Bellemead, Springbrook, Lake View, Oak Grove, Woodlawn, Chestnut Hill, Clear Spring and Cloverdale. Either of these names will always bring to the mind of any one who knows the farm to which it belongs that about the home which distinguishes it from others, and to the stranger an imaginary picture of beauty and comfort will be suggested.

MAIDA McL.

LINEN CENTERPIECE.

This design in strawberries is a very beautiful one. The leaves should be worked in the cool greens, the berries in dark reds, with the seeds put in in small French knots. The edge is worked in white.

It is stamped on an excellent quality of linen, one half yard square, and sells in stores for 50 cents. We will send this linen centerpiece (Premium No. 571) to any address, postage paid, for 25 cents; or with FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, 50 cents.

A COMFORTABLE GOWN.

This is a gown everyone needs, and can be fashioned out of any suitable material. The back is a large box-plait from the yoke down, and the front full. The collar is adjustable. A ribbon velvet confines it at the waist. It has large gigot sleeves.



A COMFORTABLE GOWN.

o'clock dinner, and left in the granite-iron double boiler, so all that was necessary was to let it heat in the morning. Potatoes seemed a necessity, so I cooked enough at dinner-time to serve for breakfast. I give a few of the ways I served them:

Put a spoonful of butter into a saucepan, and when it is hot, stir into it a teaspoon-

of cold steak, chops or cutlets should have the fat trimmed off and then be simmered in a little water until the meat will drop from the bones. This meat makes nice croquettes or hashes.

An excellent recipe for breakfast muffins is one egg, a tablespoonful of sugar, one of butter, one cupful of milk and two cupfuls

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1 pkt. Popples—mixed, a wonderful selection of colors.
1 pkt. Mignonette—mixed, all kinds to be found; fragrant.
1 pkt. Chrysanthemum—all choicest kinds—very choice.
1 pkt. Everlasting Flowers—all colors, flowers kept for yrs.
1 pkt. Mixed Flowers—over 100 kinds that grow and bloom.
2 bulbs Excelsior Pearl Tuberoses—sure to bloom early.
4 bulbs Gladioli, one each of White, Pink, Scarlet, Variegated.
3 bulbs Gladioli, fancy mixed, lovely, spikes, all colors.
1 bulb Gladiolus, Lemoine, earliest of all, butterfly colors.
8 bulbs Oxalis—sure to bloom—lovely color for borders.
These 10 pkts. of seed and 13 choice bulbs (worth \$1.30) will all flower this season, and make a wonderful flower bed of many colors. I will send them with my 1896 catalogue, Pansy Calendar, full instructions for prizes and how to get the most colors for 30 cents (silver or M. O.). Order at once, and you will be more than pleased. My catalogue shows a photo of such a bed.
"Cupid" Sweet Peas, the Floral Wonder. Free with each order.
F. B. MILLS, Box 123, ROSE HILL, N. Y.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

SUN AND SHADOW.

As I look from the isle, o'er its billows of green,
To the billows of foam-crested blue,
Yon bark, that afar in the distance is seen,
Half dreaming my eyes will pursue;
Now dark in the shadow, she scatters the spray
As the chaff in the stroke of the flail;
Now white as the sea-gull she glides on her way,
The sun gleaming bright on her sail.

Yet her pilot is thinking of dangers to shun—
Of breakers that whiten and roar;
How little he cares, if in shadow or sun
They see him who gaze from the shore!
He looks to the beacon that looms from the reef,
To the rock that is under his lee,
As he drifts on the blast, like a wind-wafted leaf,
O'er the gulfs of the desolate sea.

Thus drifting afar to the dim-vaulted caves
Where life and its ventures are laid,
The dreamers who gaze while we battle the waves
May see us in sunshine or shade;
Yet true to our course, though the shadows grow dark,
We'll trim our broad sail as before,
And stand by the rudder that governs the bark,
Nor ask how we look from the shore!

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

HAVE YOU THE GUIDE-BOOK?

LET no one forget that a Bible in the home, and a Bible in the hand, is of no use unless it also becomes a Bible in the heart. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart," says the Psalmist, "that I might not sin against thee." (Psa. cxix. 11.) And again: "The law of God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide." (Psa. xxxvii. 31.) When pedestrians travel in Switzerland, they always have their guide-book with them. If you are in a mountain pass, doubtful as to your path, of what use is your guide-book if you have left it in your trunk at home? It must be either in your heart or in your hand, so that you can quickly turn to it for guidance. You can easily tell strangers in Switzerland by the red guide-books which they have with them. So the Christians traveling through this sinful world need a constantly present guide-book, and just this God has given them in the Bible. If any man loses his way with a good guide in his very hands, is he not to blame? What, then, shall be said of Sunday-school scholars, if they miss the narrow way, with God's guide-book open in their very laps?—Rev. A. F. Schauffler.

TO STRUGGLING YOUNG MEN.

Let me say in regard to your adverse worldly circumstances that you are on a level now with those who are finally to succeed. Mark my words, and think of it thirty years from now—you find that those who, thirty years from now, are the millionaires of the country, who are the orators of the country, who are the poets of the country, who are the strong merchants of the country, who are the great philanthropists of the country, mightiest in church and state, are now on a level with you, not an inch above, and with you in straitened circumstances now. No outfit, no capital to start with! Young man, go down to the library and get some books, and read of what wonderful mechanism God gave you in your hand, in your foot, in your eye and in your ear; and then ask some doctor to take you into the dissecting-room, illustrate to you what you have read about, and never again commit the blasphemy of saying you have no capital to start with. Equipped! Why, the poorest young man is equipped as only the God of the whole universe can afford to equip him.—Talmage.

CHRIST THE HIGHEST TYPE OF MANHOOD.

The work begun by nature is finished by the supernatural—as we are wont to call the higher natural. And as the veil is lifted by Christianity, it strikes men dumb with wonder. For the goal of evolution is Jesus Christ.

The Christian life is the only life that will ever be completed. Apart from Christ the life of man is a broken pillar, the race of man an unfinished pyramid. One by one in sight of eternity all human ideals fall short; one by one before the open

grave all human hopes dissolve. The laureate sees a moment's light in nature's jealousy for the type, but that, too, vanishes.

"So careful of the type? But no,
From scarped cliff and quarried stone
She cries, 'A thousand types are gone;
I care for nothing, all shall go.'"

All shall go? No! one Type remains. "Whom he did foreknow he did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son." And "when Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."—Henry Drummond.

MISTAKEN KINDNESS.

One of the first resolutions which is formed by men and women who are succeeding in life, that is, as measured by the only standard in use nowadays, increasing their possessions far beyond their actual needs, is that they will put safeguards around their children; the hardships which they themselves contended against shall never, if they can help it, be encountered by their offspring. They not only coddle themselves, indulge themselves with unaccustomed luxuries and spare themselves all avoidable physical exertion, but they believe this course to be the right way to live; and that if it is good for them it is good for their children. They do not understand that character is formed under the pressure of the compulsory hardships and self-denials of youth, just as they forget that health is not a gift or an accident, but the reward of abstinence and of hard work under natural conditions, perhaps continued through several generations.—Frederick Tudor.

SAM JONES FLOORED.

Most persons know that the eccentric evangelist, Sam Jones, was a "hard case" before he was converted, which event did not occur till after he had married. He was once lecturing the "boys" with characteristic freedom and vigor as follows: "Oh, I've been all along there, boys. I know all about it, and I used to go to balls, and dance, too, boys. But when I wanted to get married, when I wanted to settle down with a good wife, I quit drinking and gambling, and I didn't go to a ball-room to get my wife, but I went to a prayer-meeting, and I got a good one." He told this in Texas, and when he returned to his boarding-house his landlady, who had heard his remarks, said: "I don't blame you, Brother Jones; but poor Sister Jones, where did she go to get her husband?" They say this is the only time he has been floored since he quit drinking.

ALWAYS CHEERFUL.

Florence Nightingale is a tall woman, rather stout, with gray hair and fine, open face. Although a great sufferer, she does not show a trace of it. She has not known what it is to be without pain for many years. Her features are finely modeled, while her hands and feet are very small. Her voice is low and musical. She often reads aloud, and sometimes she hums a song or hymn. She is very devout and an omnivorous reader. Her room is littered with newspapers, magazines, writing-paper, pencils and letters. She is always cheerful. Miss Nightingale loathes anything in the form of publicity. To journalists she never opens her mouth, nor even her door, but to any one who seeks advice on a question affecting the interests of the sick, or those who nurse them, a hearty welcome and a word of encouragement and counsel are always cheerfully accorded.

GOOD AND BAD TEMPER.

Evenness of temper is a sign of mental and physical health. A serene mind and an even temper enable us to bear with a degree of equanimity the petty trials and jars of life, especially those arising from contact with scolding, irascible, irritating persons. Serenity comes easy to some and hard to others. It can be taught and learned. To the Christian there may, and doubtless will, come times of unusual perturbation. At such times, when the temper is sorely tried, the best refuge is found in prayer, and the surest medicine in God's holy word.

FRUIT AS A MEDICINAL FOOD.

Fruit cools the blood, cleans the teeth and aids digestion. Those who can't eat it miss the benefit of perhaps the most medicinal food on nature's bill of fare.

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—Detroit Tribune.

SUGAR was unknown to the ancients.

MAX is the weakest of all animals in proportion to his size.

WHEN a man is wrong and won't admit it, he always gets angry.

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WHEN people get to quarreling about their creeds, the devil stops being anxious about their deeds.

JOHN BUNYAN was the Inspired Tinker, from the vocation he exercised even while engaged in preaching.

To LET A COLD HAVE ITS OWN WAY is to assist in laying the foundation of Consumption. To cure the most stubborn Cough or Cold, you have only to use judiciously Dr. Jayne's Expectorant.

THE man who boasts that he works with his head instead of his hands, is respectfully reminded that the woodpecker does the same, and is the biggest kind of a bore.

SCIENTIFIC cleanliness is to be promoted in French school-rooms by boiled drinking-water, damp cloths instead of dry dusters and brooms, and an antiseptic cleaning once a week.

THE four best-known women's clubs of the country are the New York Sorosis, the New England Woman's club of Boston, the Chicago Woman's club, and the New Century club of Philadelphia.

CAGED lions and tigers, pumas and jaguars take no notice of the men and women passing in front of them, but let a dog be brought anywhere near the cage, and they show their savage nature at once and spring up, glaring out savagely.

JOHN MILTON was called the British Homer, the English Mastiff, the Pedagogue, Samson Agonistes, Homer's Rival, the Gospel Gun, and many others, arising mostly from the controversial character of his works or from his great poem.

SHAKSPERE is called Bard of Avon, in allusion to the stream that flows by Stratford. He has also been called The Divine, English Terence, Fancy's Child, Heir of Fame, The Matchless, Swan of Avon, Upstart Crow, and scores of other nicknames.

THE harrows made by G. H. Pounder, Fort Atkinson, are universal favorites with everyone who has ever used them. They are better and will last longer than any other make; they have improvements that cannot be found in any other harrows. Mr. Pounder will be glad to explain their merits to any of our readers who write him.

A FARMER in western Massachusetts recently displayed the following warning on his place: "Nottis—Know kows is allond in these medders, eny man or women lettin' thar kows run the rode wot gits into my medders afore-said shall hav his tail cut of by me.—Abadiab Rogers."

The Barlow one-horse corn drill has several advantages that add to its value. It will plant close together in hills or far enough apart to check-row; it can be changed instantly, and will plant 6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 20 or 30 inches apart, one, two or three or more kernels to the hill. For growing ensilage, this is the best drill ever made. It needs only to be seen to be appreciated. The Barlow Corn Planter Co., Quincy, Ill., will tell you more about it.

ONE of the curiosities of the cable code method of sending information is shown in a recent message announcing the loss by fire of a ship at sea. The whole message was conveyed in three words of Scott's cable code: "Smoldered, hurrah! halleluiab!" "Smoldered" stands for "the ship has been destroyed by fire," "hurrah" for "crew saved by boats," and "halleluiab" for "all hands saved—in-form wives and sweethearts."

"ONLY one more, George; only one more," she whispered, fondly, as she elung about his neck like ivy around a stump.

The man flushed scarlet and in vain attempted to put her from him.

"Please, George! Oh, as you love me, George, only one more!"

"No!" he cried, hoarsely, wrestling himself from her convulsive embrace. "Sooner than take another of those liver pills I'll sue for a divorce."—Judge.

A TEMPTING OFFER.

We will give you twelve silver spoons or a gold ring worth \$2.00, if you will sell a dollar's worth of our household goods to your neighbors. Everybody needs them, so you can easily sell within an hour. Send us your name and full address, we will send goods, post-paid, and will mail the present after you have sold them. Address Rex Company, 1111 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

SEVEN WONDERS OF COREA.

Corea, like the world of the ancients, has its "seven wonders." Briefly stated, they are as follows: First, a hot mineral spring near Kin Shantao, the healing properties of which are believed by the people to be miraculous. No matter what disease may afflict the patient, a dip in the water proves efficacious. The second wonder is two springs, situated at a considerable distance from each other; in fact, they have the breadth of the entire peninsula between them. They have two peculiarities—when one is full, the other is always empty; and notwithstanding the fact that they are connected by a subterranean passage, one is bitter and the other pure and sweet. The third wonder is a cold-wave cave—a cavern from which a wintry wind perpetually blows. The force of the wind from the cave is such that a strong man cannot stand before it. A forest that cannot be eradicated is the fourth wonder. No matter what injury is done to the roots of the trees, which are large pines, they will sprout up again directly, like the phoenix from her ashes. The fifth is the most wonderful of all. It is the famous "floating stone." It stands, or seems to stand, in front of the palace erected in its honor. It is an irregular cube of great bulk. It appears to be resting on the ground, free from supports on all sides; but, strange to say, two men at opposite ends of a rope may pass it under the stone without encountering any obstacle whatever. The sixth wonder is the "hot stone," which, from remote ages, has lain glowing with heat on the top of a high hill. The seventh and last Corean wonder is a drop of the sweat of Buddha. For thirty paces around the temple in which it is enshrined not a blade of grass will grow. There are no trees or flowers inside the sacred square. Even the animals decline to profane a spot so holy.

TO SUBDUCE ONIONS.

"Talk about the tobacco-scented breath of men," said a pretty girl, "I have suffered more at matinees from sitting next a woman who had eaten potato salad or Spanish omelet, or some dish of which onions or garlic formed a part, than I ever did from the fumes of tobacco in the presence of men. The odor of wine, which women drink at table as often as men do, is no more pleasant because it is wafted from between the pretty lips of a woman, who, perchance, would tip-tilt her nose at detecting it in a 'horrid man.'"

There is more truth than poetry in this criticism, but a little care will prevent any one from being offensive on account of the food or liquids they have taken. A cupful of black coffee will destroy the fumes of the malodorous onion. The "fad" of having peppermints and wintergreen cream candies on the table has method in its madness, as one of these will destroy the odor left by wine. It would be quite safe to use, as a mouth wash and gargle after each meal, a glass of water in which has been put a few drops each of camphor and myrrh. A bit oforris-root might be carried in the masculine pocket for use when necessary, for it, as well as stick cinnamon or ginger, will disguise unpleasant odors. In some cases, however, the "onion of prevention" would render resort to these disguises unnecessary. Henry Ward Beecher once characteristically said, "There is no smell so universally pleasing as no smell."

THE FIRST USE OF TEA.

By whom or when the use of tea for drinking purposes was first discovered is lost in antiquity. It is spoken of as a famous herb in Chinese literature as far back as 2,000 years B. C., at which time its cultivation and classification was almost as thorough and complete as it is to-day. One of the ancient legends says that its virtues were accidentally learned by King Shen Nung She, the Chinese monarch who is also known as "The Divine Husbandman," whom the record says flourished forty centuries ago. He was engaged in boiling water over a fire made of the branches of the tea-plant, and carelessly allowed some of the leaves to fall into the pot. The liquid which he expected to come from the vessel simply as sterilized water was miraculously converted into an elixir of life by the accidental addition of the tea leaves. Soon after it became highly esteemed in all the oriental cities, and was used as a royal gift from the Chinese monarchs to the potentates of southern and western Asia. This same King Shen Nung She not only earned the title of respect by which he was known through the discovery of the virtues of tea, but because of being the first to teach his people how to make and use plows and many other implements of husbandry.—St. Louis Republic.

BIBLICAL ORIGIN OF SLANG.

How many know that the original "kieker," in the metaphorical sense, is mentioned in the Old Testament, and that an expression used by Jesus himself is responsible for our slang phrase, "What's it to you?" In the first book of Samuel, second chapter, and twenty-ninth verse, "a man of God" says to Eli, "Wherefore kieke ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering?" The prototype of the second phrase alluded to above is found in the answer which Jesus gave Peter, as recorded in the last chapter of St. John, twenty-second verse: "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?"—St. Louis Republic.

CONDENSED ARMY RATIONS.

After comprehensive and exhaustive experiments, the War Department has evidently made up its mind that Mother Nature knew pretty well what she was about when she provided food for the children of men. The experiments made with condensed and concentrated rations have resulted in incapacitating at least half of the men for military service, and making many of them ill for some time. No loss of life has as yet been traced directly to this system, but the showing is by no means favorable for further experiments until a radical change has taken place in the quality and preparation of this condensed diet. A favorable season was chosen, and an expedition was ordered for one company of soldiers. The ration consisted of coffee, bean soup, bread and bacon. The coffee and soup were in small tablets, the bread in a flat cake, and the bacon in a tin can. A tablet of soup and a can of bacon were supposed to make two meals, the bread one meal, and the tablet of coffee a pint of the beverage. All that was necessary to make the soup and coffee was a suitable amount of boiled water. The bacon was to be cooked, and the bread was soaked in warm water and eaten as one would eat oatmeal. The soldiers started out in fine shape, but soon after the first meal many were taken ill with an aggravated stomach difficulty. Before the end of the second day, most of the officers and thirty men were in the hospital. Those who were able to stand it were sent back to the fort for anything to eat that they could obtain, and doctors for the sick. Experiments with condensed army rations are not likely to be in high favor with the War Department.

NOT A DRUNKARD'S PARADISE.

Renowned though Switzerland be for the freedom and democracy of its institutions, there is no country in the world that is so drastic and severe in the treatment of inebriates. The laws vary in detail in the twenty-two cantons, but in their essential principles they are very similar and provide for the punishment not only of those persons who indulge in strong drink to excess, but also of the people who supply the liquor in question. Drunkards are visited with penalties amounting to a maximum of a year's imprisonment at hard labor, and three years' interdiction from exercising the franchise and from the purchase of any alcoholic drink, while the dealers and innkeepers who permit their customers to become intoxicated or who furnish liquor to "interdicted" persons are likewise sentenced to the payment of heavy fines, imprisonment, and the forfeiture of license. Altogether, Switzerland can scarcely be considered a drunkard's paradise.

FIVE GREAT RULERS.

Of the 1,500,000,000 of the earth's inhabitants, the emperor of China holds sway over 405,000,000; the queen of England rules or protects 380,000,000; the czar of Russia is dictator to 155,000,000; France, in the republic, dependencies and spheres of influence, has 70,000,000 subjects; the emperor of Germany, 55,000,000; the sultan of Turkey, 40,000,000; the emperor of Japan, 40,000,000, and the king of Spain, 27,000,000—two thirds of the population of the globe under the government of five rulers.

AN EASY BERTH.

I received a letter from a lad, asking me to find him an easy berth. To this I replied: "You cannot be an editor; do not try the law; do not think of the ministry; let alone all ships, shops and merchandise; abhor politics, don't practise medicine; be not a farmer nor a mechanic; neither be a soldier nor a sailor. Don't work. Don't study. Don't think. None of these are easy. Oh, my son! You have come into a hard world. I know of only one easy place in it, and that is the grave."—Henry Ward Beecher.

HOW SHE LEARNED TO LAUGH.

A society girl, one of whose greatest attractions is a soft, little musical laugh, entertained an interested group lately with an account of how that prominent charm of hers was acquired. "Very few persons have, as you all know," she said, "an agreeable laugh. I had simply nothing that could be called such in my possession. The lack made me seem grim and too far from merry to be a successful companion. So I took lessons of an actor and learned the mechanism of forced laughter. This I practised, and improved myself till I had the art to perfection, and it became second nature. It cost me \$50 to buy my laugh, but I would not part with it for thousands."



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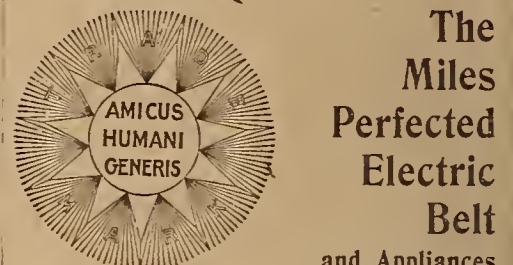


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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should enclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Prepared Rennet.—C. L. T. Hunter's Creek, Mich. You can get prepared rennet in tablet or extract form from Chr. Hansen's laboratory, Little Falls, N. Y.

Hen Manure.—A. K., Knoxville, Tenn., writes: "How does hen manure compare with stable manure in value? What is it worth per ton?"

ANSWER:—As both vary so much in composition and value, it is hardly possible to make an accurate comparison. At the present prices of plant-foods in commercial fertilizers, good stable manure is worth about \$2 per ton. Poultry manure, mixed with a little dry earth and land-plaster as absorbents, and kept dry, is worth more than double the same weight of stable manure.

Straw Mats for Hotbeds.—H. L., Essex, Mass. Straw mats for covering hotbeds during severe weather are easily made. A convenient size is four and one half by seven feet. On a wall or frame tightly stretch five strands of heavy, tarred twine ten inches apart. Beginning at the bottom, place small handfuls of long, straight rye straw, butts out. With five light, tarred strings secure each handful to the upright cords, wrapping each string once around the straw and upright cord, and so on until the mat is finished.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should enclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column, must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Books Wanted.—A. W. S., Pleasant Ridge, Ohio. Apply to a bookseller for a catalogue, and select what you desire.

Feeding Indigo.—H. O. A., North Wilkesboro, N. C. I do not know anything about the effect upon the eyes of horses of feeding indigo.

Crippled in the Hind Legs.—A. L. S., Lakeview, Mich. I cannot comply with your request, because all that can be learned from your inquiry is that your horse is badly crippled in both hind legs, as your statements do not furnish any basis for a further diagnosis. I therefore have to advise you to have your horse examined by a veterinarian.

Texas Fever.—E. C. B., Guthrie, O. T. The cows died of southern, or so-called Texas, cattle-fever. Splenic fever is a term introduced by J. Gamgee at a time when very little was known about the disease, but should not be used as a synonym for southern cattle-fever, because from time immemorial it has been applied to an entirely different disease, known as anthrax. Your last question I cannot answer.

Diseased Hind Knee.—J. M. A., Keith, Okla. As your three-year-old colt was damaged on the knee two years ago, and has been lame ever since, there is no prospect of a cure. Your question if work will make the lameness worse I cannot answer, because the nature, the extent and the severity of the existing morbid condition cannot be ascertained from your statements. You will have to find it out yourself.

So-called Black-leg and Alkali-water.—F. S., Whetstone, S. Dak., writes: "What can I do for my cattle that are dying with the black-leg? What shall I do for my horses that are badly alkali?"

ANSWER:—If possible, keep your young cattle away from the places where the disease originates. As to your horses, keep them away from the alkali-water. If that cannot be done, I cannot advise you. Of course, nothing can be accomplished by medication.

A Fatal Disease.—E. H. H., Bluejacket, Ind. Ter. The disease of horses of which you briefly describe symptoms and course is not identical with so-called Texas, or southern, cattle-fever, but a product of local influences affecting the nervous system and the processes of digestion and nutrition. May be that any of the various loco-weeds, of which Astragalus mollissimus is the principal representative, are abundant in your locality. If your horse, now sick, dies, please make a careful post-mortem examination, and report the result.

Dirty Skin.—J. B., Mohemeuco, Va. If your horse has a dust-like substance on the hair and skin, it is an evidence of neglected or improper grooming, notwithstanding your assertion. I do not know what you call "good" grooming; maybe you apply that term to scratching and irritating the skin of the horse with a currycomb, an instrument which should never come in contact with the skin of a horse. Good grooming is done with a good brush, and the currycomb is used only to clean the brush. If no cause can be found for the jerking of the head, it may be only a bad habit.

Worms.—R. E. B., Mt. Jackson, Pa., and W. D. H., Monroe, Neb. The pointed worms, about two inches long, passing off with the dung of your horses, are probably the mature forms of Sclerostomum equinum, the immature forms of which cause the dangerous aneurisms in the anterior mesenteric artery of horses and mules. The worm-brood, as a rule, is picked up with the more or less stagnant water of pools and ditches in field and pasture. The mature worms themselves do not seem to do much damage. Their exit may be hastened by now and then an injection of raw linseed-oil into the rectum of the affected horses, but such an injection, of course, cannot dislodge the dangerous immature worms in the anterior mesenteric artery. The main thing is prevention.

Runs from the Nose.—A. R., Venetian, Pa. In horses running from the nose, a dry and dead appearance of the coat of hair and emaciation are rather suspicious symptoms, but entirely insufficient for a definite diagnosis. I therefore advise you to have your mare, as soon as possible, examined by a competent veterinarian, and if such an examination should not be decisive, to subject the animal at once to the mallein test, which, at any rate, will decide whether you have to deal with a case of glanders or not.

A Morbid Growth on the Eye of a Cow.—W. A. P., St. Nicholas, Fla. You wish to know what you "should do for a cow with a fleshy growth on one of her eyes, which started in the corner, and almost covers the sight." The only thing that promises any success is to employ a competent surgeon to remove it, because if any one not familiar with the anatomy, histology and physiology of the parts concerned attempts the removal, notwithstanding that he may have received the very best instruction that can be given without a thorough examination of the growth and its surroundings, he will meet with failure in one way or another.

Warts on the Teats of a Yearling Heifer.—J. B. W., Spartansburg, S. C. If you have some patience, do nothing, and wait; the warts will disappear. If you have not, you can remove them in different ways; for instance, those that have a plainly developed neck, by applying a tight ligature as close to the skin as possible; those that are flat, or sessile, and situated on skin not too delicate, by repeatedly touching them, say every two minutes, with strong nitric acid until two thirds of their substance has been burned away, when the remaining third will disappear without any further treatment, and those situated on delicate skin, by repeated applications of lunar caustic or of strong vinegar.

Probably Measly.—N. W. T., Waterford, Ontario, Can. Your pig may be "measly," that is, full of small cystworms, Cysticercus cellulosae, the larvæ of the human tapeworm, Tenia solium. The pig probably has had access to the excrements of a person affected with a tapeworm. To arrive at a more definite diagnosis, pry open the pig's mouth, and examine with your finger the lower surface of its tongue for small nodules beneath the mucous membrane, as this is a favorite seat of the cystworm. If you find these nodules of the size of a very small pea (the cysts), and if, at the same time, the squeal of the pig is very hoarse, the diagnosis is secured. The meat of such an animal is not fit for human food, and should be destroyed.

About the Treatment of Spavin.—J. H. M., Woodbury, Tenn. If my description of the treatment of spavin in FARM AND FIRESIDE of November 15th is not plain enough for you, you ought not to apply it; and if you wish to have your spavined horse fired, I most decidedly advise you to employ a veterinarian to do it. That a firing-iron as small as a pigeon's egg will not retain the heat until the operation is finished is known to any one who has ever heated a piece of iron, and how a horse should be secured does not need to be told to any one who knows how to manage horses. When I fire a horse, I require only one assistant, who holds the horse by the bridle and by the twist on the horse's nose, and the horse, as a rule, don't stir.

Failing in Milk.—W. E. W., West Clifty, Ky. As it is over a year since your cow has been fresh, it is possible that the whole trouble is due to the fact that she is old milking. Still, as, according to your statements, swellings are forming at the base of the teats, which are getting dry, and as the teats or quarters of the udder are not getting dry at the same time, but successively, first the right fore, then the left hind, and still later the left fore quarter, it is possible that the cow, especially as she is a Jersey, is affected with tuberculosis in the udder. If it were simply a case of garget, you undoubtedly would have observed the inflammatory symptoms usually attending that disease, and would have said something about them. As it is, I have to advise you to have your cow examined by a competent veterinarian. Your egg question belongs to the poultry editor.

Curb.—P. P. S., Reedsville, Ohio, writes: "Is there a permanent cure for what is known as a curb on a horse?"

ANSWER:—If the mechanical proportions of the damaged leg are not too defective, and if the bones are not diseased, good, nutritious food, exemption from all kinds of work for a long time, and an application, once every four or five days, of a sharp ointment composed of biniodide of mercury, one part, and hog's lard, twelve parts, to be rubbed in on the swelling, will effect a permanent cure, provided the animal is afterward, or until the same is eight years old, not used for any hard work by which the weight of the body is thrown upon the hind legs; for instance, galloping under the saddle, or with a rider on its back, or pulling heavy loads up hill.

Sore Necks.—E. W. C., Ithaca, Mich., writes: "What shall I do to cure my horses' necks? Their necks were scalded under collar-pads three years ago, and have been crusted over with a whitish scab, and sore to the touch ever since. I have used sweat-pads under collars all the time, as the collars were too large to use alone."

ANSWER:—If the collar of a horse does not fit, is too large or too small, too wide or too narrow, it will produce sores and bruises wherever the pressure becomes concentrated; and then if a pad is placed on the sore place, the pressure is increased, and the bruise or sore will necessarily get much worse. The only possible remedy consists in relieving the sore or bruised parts from all pressure whatever, and in having the collar so changed that this will be done and the sore part not be touched at all. If your country is not too hilly, I advise you to work your horse in a good, well-fitting breast-harness. Ill-fitting collars should not be used under any circumstances.

Pearly Tuberculosis.—E. S., Antioch, Neb., writes: "I killed one of the fattest four-year-old cows in my herd to make my winter's meat. She was in the very highest point of health, as far as could be seen, but on the inside on the ribs and on the lungs was formed small, meaty lumps about the size of a bean. When cut open, they seemed to be solid meat, and had small specks in them like seeds. She was a range cow, and never had any grain to eat, but fattened on grass and hay."

ANSWER:—The morbid changes you found in your cow are the product of pearly tuberculosis. The meat of such an animal is not fit for human food, and absolutely dangerous unless thoroughly boiled or cooked. The cause of the disease is a small micro-organism, known as "Bacillus tuberculosis," and is the same which constitutes the cause of tuberculosis, or phthisis (consumption), in human beings, a disease identical to tuberculosis in cattle. An immediate reply to questions is given only if a fee of one dollar is sent in with the inquiry, and under no circumstances for a two-cent stamp.

A THOUGHT THAT KILLED A MAN!

He thought that he could trifle with disease. He was run down in health, felt tired and worn out, complained of dizziness, biliousness, backaches and headaches. His liver and kidneys were out of order. He thought to get well by dosing himself with cheap pills. And then came the ending. He fell a victim to Bright's disease! The money he ought to have invested in a safe, reliable remedy went for a tombstone. The thought that killed this man

HAS KILLED OTHERS.

Statistics show that 90 per cent of the deaths from pneumonia, Bright's disease and similar complaints are caused from derangements of the liver and kidneys. These great organs keep the blood pure and in healthful motion. When they get out of order the blood becomes poisoned, the circulation impeded and the whole system speedily breaks down. It is

A DANGEROUS IDEA

to imagine that pills can strike at the root of these diseases. It has been thoroughly proved that such remedies are worse than useless. There is only one remedy which can always be depended upon. This remedy alone can act on the liver and kidneys when they are out of order, clear out the system and build up the health. The name of this remedy is Warner's Safe Cure. It is the only standard remedy in the world for kidney and liver complaints. It is the only remedy which physicians universally prescribe. It is the only remedy that is backed by the testimony of thousands whom it has relieved and cured.

There is nothing else that can take its place.


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The bright and beautiful scarlet and red shades of the Pansy are little known. Try our Mixed Strain of GIANT FLOWERED SCARLET SHADES. FOR ONLY 10 CENTS we will mail a packet of 50 seeds and our great Catalogue of Flower and Vegetable Seeds, Bulbs, Plants and Rare New Fruits; 135 pages elegantly illustrated; many large colored plates. Do not miss it. Order now.
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THE lands of this colony are all situated in Leon County, and within eight miles of the beautiful city of Tallahassee, the capital of the state. They are all within three miles of the new station on the Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad (one of the Clark Syndicate Companies), which road runs from Tallahassee to the Gulf of Mexico.

Address all inquiries and send all orders and remittances to

CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES,
Care of FARM AND FIRESIDE,
1643 Monadnock Block, Chicago, or
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PROFITABLE FARMING IN FLORIDA.

The Owl Cigar Company conducts one of the most extensive farming operations in the state of Florida, and its principal product is tobacco. Mr. W. M. Corry, general manager of the company, in a recent interview says:

"The high-grade Sumatra wrapper, as is well known, is the highest-priced and most-sought-after tobacco imported into this country, and it is also thought that the Sumatra plant adapts itself more readily to climatic and other conditions in Florida than any other imported variety."

Mr. Corry claims that he has demonstrated by the results obtained on the Santa Clara plantation that as fine Sumatra and Cuban tobaccos can be grown in Florida as in the countries to which the plants are indigenous. Samples grown on the Owl Company's plantations have been submitted to the most experienced Cuban experts in comparison with the finest grades from the islands, and they have invariably failed to distinguish a difference.

Mr. Corry laughed at the mystery with which the Cuban experts are investigating tobacco culture. Said he: "Any one who can grow cabbage can grow tobacco; that is, up to the time when the leaves are ready to be cut and put through the curing process. In this stage, of course, expert knowledge is required, but the average Florida farmer will learn how to do the whole business after seeing one or two crops handled. Our company started in as your people are doing, with the idea that it would not be proper to even clear up the ground or build a fence without the advice of an expert Cuban grower, figuratively speaking, of course. But we soon became disabused of such notions and discharged the experts, and since that time have had only American farmers in charge of our plantations. And we are confident that better results have rewarded our work on this account, and that our business is conducted much more methodically and in every way more satisfactorily than would have been the case had we continued as we started."

Of the prospects of tobacco culture in Florida Mr. Corry said: "There is no limit to the possibilities of this industry. I do not hesitate to claim that Florida can produce finer cigar tobacco than any other country on earth. My extensive experience amply warrants me in the statement, and I predict that before much time elapses the discriminating buyers of cigars will, by their patronage, confirm the truth of this now seemingly extravagant claim—that is, if preparation is made to meet the already large and rapidly increasing demand. But here we are met with one trouble. For instance, our company's cigar factory uses the entire product of our plantation and three fourths of all the other tobacco grown in that section. Consequently, there is not enough left to induce the buyers of big Northern houses to visit the state. But every year the acreage is largely increased and the recognition of the supremacy of the Florida products is only delayed to that time when sufficient can be raised to supply the markets of the country. The delicious aroma, pleasant taste, beautiful silkiness and light colors of the finest Florida products from either Cuban or Sumatra seed are bound to win public favor, and you will yet see cigars made of Florida tobacco universally recognized as the very finest."

WHY DO MEN WANT TO SETTLE IN THE SOUTH?

The question is frequently asked, "Why do men, who are seemingly settled in comfort in the North, become dissatisfied and wish to make a new home in the South?" Probably the correct answer to this question is that the experience of the past few years has demonstrated to the Northern farmer that very little beyond a mere existence can be earned upon the farms of the North, and that even this result is reached through trials and privations. The extreme cold weather, the unvarying recurrence of blizzards, the repeated failure of crops, have all tended to render the Northern farmer a very much discouraged individual.

In the South he can buy land very much cheaper, he is almost entirely untroubled by blizzards or cold weather, he can live in a house that costs scarcely one quarter of the amount required in the North, and find a great deal more of comfort and a great deal less of anxiety and worryment.

The schools and churches of the South have been so much improved in the past

few years that they afford equal advantages with those of the North. The people of the South welcome the Northerner with open arms; the railroads have been extended so that equally good transportation facilities can be had to the markets of the country as from the West; and it has become a demonstrated fact that the farmer of the Northeast and Northwest, who just manages to live and scrape along from year to year, can sell his farm, pull up stakes and go South, and with the same amount of work and much less money invested can, in a few years, earn a competency for himself and family. These are the principal reasons that have obtained with several hundred thousand people who have migrated from the Northern and Western states to the South during the past three years.

If any one wants corroboration of these statements, he can easily find them in a most ample and complete form, by referring to the columns of the FARM AND FIRESIDE during the past few weeks, and particularly to what is being done in Western Florida under the auspices of the Clark Syndicate Companies.

AN IMPARTIAL OPINION.

Mr. C. Heber Turner, the business representative of the FARM AND FIRESIDE in Chicago, published an article in our issue of January 15th, over his own signature, setting forth with considerable detail his impressions of the Tallahassee country. This article was entitled "Salient Facts about Western Florida," and is well worth the careful perusal of every reader of our paper who has any interest whatsoever in the development of the Southern states.

We have known Mr. Turner a great many years. He is a most intelligent, painstaking, thorough business man, and no amount of money or influence could induce him to write or say anything which was not the result of his own convictions.

He made a special journey into Western Florida some months ago, for the purpose of ascertaining for himself what the prospects for the future were concerning the developments in the South.

He gave particular attention to the operations of what are known as the Clark Syndicate Companies, and the facts which he has presented as the results of his personal examinations must appeal with peculiar force to everyone interested in Southern development.

He speaks of the climate, the soil, the character of the people, everything, in fact, connected with the Tallahassee country in the most glowing terms, and the evidence cited by him appeals with convincing force to every intending investor and settler. We especially commend the above article to the careful attention of our many readers, assuring them that anything emanating from the pen of Mr. Turner may be relied upon as accurate and truthful.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN FLORIDA.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 1, 1895.

TO THE EDITOR OF FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Dear Sir:—Replying to yours asking for information on the subject of sheep husbandry, no business of which I have any knowledge is so largely and certainly profitable as sheep raising in the highlands of Florida. Especially on the natural pasturage of pine woods are conditions favorable. On such lands sheep find satisfactory grazing ten months in the year, and even during the remaining two months—in the dead of winter—feed is not a necessity, though flocks that are fed a little during this period bring larger, healthier lambs and bear heavier fleeces. Spanish Merinos and other fine wool-producing breeds are the most profitable sheep for our climate. From such we grow wool that surpasses in fineness, texture and spinning qualities any other produced in America, and in every particular equal to the finest imported wool.

Florida sheep, where not pastured exclusively on overflowed lands, are peculiarly exempt from common diseases so fatal in some sections of the North and West.

The common range sheep of Florida, Southern Alabama and Georgia are degenerated offspring of crosses between the little Spanish Merinos and various English breeds. They are very hardy, leggy, and prolific breeders. Carcasses small, fleeces about four pounds average, of good quality, rate of increase by young with ordinary attention about sixty per cent per annum.

They are susceptible of great improvement. The ewes are excellent mothers, and the results from introducing thoroughbred rams into a flock of native "scrub" ewes are wonderful.

Such ewes may be bought for \$2.00 each or less if flocks are taken without culling. In our immediate section, however, there are very few for sale. Thoroughbred rams of age for service will cost about \$20.00 each. Good "full-blood" rams may be had at \$5.00 to \$10.00.

One ram to about fifteen to twenty ewes is about the number necessary for best results.

Sheep should always be brought home and "penned," that is, shut up in an inclosure of some sort, at night. By using common rail or portable fences, these inclosures may be shifted from one part of the farm to another as often as may be desired. The dung (dropped by sheep on the lands upon which they are penned), plowed under, enriches the land perfectly, insuring a maximum crop of anything that may be planted. The manure thus secured without any cost is not the least advantage of sheep raising. A twelve-year-old boy can care for several hundred sheep, and therefore sheep raising can be made immensely profitable to a farmer without in any way interfering with his regular farming operations.

(Signed) W. L. TAYLOR.

POULTRY RAISING IN FLORIDA.

A recent letter from Mr. W. L. Taylor, of Tallahassee, stated that all kinds of domestic poultry flourished better in the Tallahassee region than in any other portion of America. The evidence adduced by this writer indicated that if intelligent, industrious men wish to establish themselves in the South, in a business that would afford satisfactory results, he could find nothing more certain of profitable returns than the establishment of what we term the poultry industry in Wakulla or Leon Counties of the Tallahassee region of Florida.

The facts presented by this writer, who is a native of that section of the country, are well worth the attention of every person who has any idea of settling in the South. They show plainly and conclusively that with a small quantity of land, a moderate capital, and well-directed industry, the settler will be perfectly assured of very satisfactory returns.

The conveniences of market and facilities of transportation are all that could be desired. The terms and conditions upon which land can be bought of the Clark Syndicate Companies are extremely favorable, and we commend them to the attention of our many readers.

PROFITS OF TOBACCO RAISING.

Mr. Geo. W. Saxon, who is one of the leading citizens and bankers of Tallahassee, states that during the past year he has cured one thousand pounds of tobacco to the acre, at a net cost of fifty dollars; that he expects to sell the crop at an average price of eighteen cents per pound, which will yield him a net profit of \$130.00 to the acre.

How many farmers in the Northeast or Northwest can show equally good results, particularly when these results are reached from land that can be bought for less than twenty-five dollars per acre?

The Clark Syndicate Companies are selling forty-acre farms near Tallahassee especially adapted for the cultivation of tobacco. The land being cleared and ready for planting, so that the farmer can begin his work immediately upon purchasing the land.

Mr. O. Chute, in his November bulletin on the culture of tobacco, says in his introduction that the revolution in Cuba would no doubt create a demand for the Florida product many times greater than the possible supply. Devastating armies, reinforced by cyclones and floods, have destroyed the plantations of the Vuelta Abajo, and other districts in Cuba, and the probability is that the home demand will exceed the '96 crop, and possibly that of several succeeding years. Thus it appears that Cuba's extremity will be Florida's opportunity, for no other state in the Union has the soil and climatic conditions necessary to provide a substitute for Havana tobacco. Indeed, Florida is now looked to and called upon by hundreds of large factories in this country to supply this much-needed commodity, and it is possible that there may be an important export demand, as other foreign countries can no more get Havana leaf than this country can.

DAIRY AND TRUCK FARMING.

The letters published from farmers who have been living in Leon and Wakulla Counties, in Western Florida, for many years demonstrate that if men with moderate means, and willing to work for a living, will go to that section of the country, they will find opportunities to engage in dairy and truck farming such as do not obtain in any other section of the country. It is an old Scotch adage that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," and the letters published from farmers of the Tallahassee country show that men who migrated to that country a few years ago, and took up land for farming, have become possessed of good homes, good bank accounts and a fair competency.

These letters show that the soil is good; the people hospitable; the market abundant; the facilities for transportation ample, and the climate, schools and churches all that can be desired; the taxes are light; the cost of living cheap; all of which present proof substantial enough to satisfy even the most canny of Scotchmen. Why, then, starve and freeze in the North, trying to work high-priced land, when you can buy a cheap farm in the South and live with comparative comfort, in the best climate in the world?

FAVORABLE FREIGHT RATES IN FLORIDA.

So many questions have been asked with reference to freight rates from Florida, and from Tallahassee especially, that we desire to say here that an arrangement is in existence between the Traffic Department of the Florida Central & Peninsular Railroad and the Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad (one of the Clark Syndicate Companies), that fruit and vegetables from Tallahassee shall be taken to Jacksonville at a rate as low as from any of the sections south of Jacksonville. This puts Tallahassee on a parity with the present fruit and vegetable growing districts of Florida. The Clark Syndicate Companies can now give assurance to farmers in Leon and Wakulla Counties that they can have the advantages of these cheap rates to any section of the country.

It is also known to us that a farmer in Leon County shipped Irish potatoes to Cincinnati on a rate of 90 cents per barrel, and he realized from the first shipment \$6.00 per barrel; from the second shipment, \$5.00, and for the third lot, \$4.00 per barrel. At the prices he realized and at the existing rate of freight, there was a handsome profit in it for him.

FACTS ABOUT FLORIDA LANDS.

The following are facts that it may be well to impress upon prospective land buyers:

The absolute healthfulness and freedom from epidemic and contagious diseases of the pine lands of Western Florida. Water is pure, and there is no malaria among the pines. Pine lands can be cleared for one fourth the cost of "hammock," or lands covered with heavy growth of hard wood.

Florida sand is not sand in its true sense, but a combination of sand, phosphates, shell and vegetable matter, etc., yielding fruits and vegetables of most delicate flavor.

The climate of Western Florida enables the farmer to grow two to three crops on the same land each year.

Farm crops bring better prices in Florida than in the Northwest, because more diversified.

Comfortable living is cheaper in Florida than in the Northwest; it costs less to build a home in Florida than in the Northwest.

Cyclones are unknown. Potato and chinch-bugs have never visited Florida.

FLORIDA EXCURSION FROM CHICAGO.

Our colony excursion to Tallahassee will be about the 4th of February. We are receiving many inquiries as to time, rates, etc. A round-trip rate will be sent by letter to inquirers. It will be a splendid time to leave the cold North and go down to the land of sunshine and flowers. From Tallahassee, Florida, the excursionists will be taken over the line of the Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad, direct to Lanark on the Gulf of Mexico. For full particulars address Clark Syndicate Companies, care Farm and Fireside, 1643 Monadnock Block, Chicago, Ill., or 108 Times Building, New York City.

INDEPENDENT LETTERS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Nov. 2, 1895.

CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES,
Land Department, Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:—Some days since you requested me to give you, in writing, my experience in the culture of tobacco in Leon County, Florida. I now have the pleasure of saying that in January last I employed an expert tobacco grower of plug chewing-tobacco, from Virginia, who had grown tobacco for a number of years both in Virginia and North Carolina. Twenty acres of ground were prepared in February and March, and the plants set in April. The last of July we began cutting and curing as fine a crop as my expert had ever grown in Virginia or North Carolina. We got from the twenty acres 20,000 pounds of cured tobacco. I sent a sample lot to Raleigh, North Carolina, and put it on the selling-tables, and the tobacco brokers said it was the best they had ever seen. They priced it from 9 cents to 40 cents, making an average of 26 cents. I have not finished preparing the crop for market owing to the spell of dry weather we have had for about two months, but as I now have a cellar completed, the dry weather will not be in the way, and the process of packing and preparing for market will go on uninterrupted.

My experiment being so very satisfactory, I have succeeded in organizing a company to grow tobacco on a larger scale, who will not only grow the weed, but will be prepared to cure and pack for small farmers who are not expert curers themselves, and who are not able to build barns. It does not require an expert to grow tobacco; anybody who can farm at all can grow it. The curing is the only difficulty. This requires experienced hands. Our company being prepared to cure it, will obviate this difficulty with those who are near our plantation, which is about four miles from Tallahassee. Any one who is careful, however, can soon learn to cure.

I shall be glad to give you any further information from time to time that you may wish.

Yours, etc.,
(Signed) G. W. SAXON.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 5, 1895.

CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:—I lately made a visit to Tallahassee, and have just returned. I have no hesitation in stating that the facilities for a poor man to make a living or a rich man to speculate are unsurpassed. Everything is just as represented. I have thought sometimes that things were a little stretched, but have now altered my opinion.

I am going down there to live, but it depends a little on the sale of my place here whether I go immediately or a little later. Of course, we need some money.

I find the climate superior to what I expected. It is not cold this time of year, but very pleasant and invigorating, gives one a good appetite, which I do not always have in Chicago.

The people down there all seem to think there is no particular difficulty in making a living. It is mostly a question of facilities for shipping produce away.

I went without the knowledge of the Clark Syndicate Companies to investigate on my own hook, in no one's interest but my own. I was astonished at the people. They are very cordial, and have time to answer questions in a pleasant and polite manner.

I find that the timber on the land will not be hard to clear, as a great many people think. If a man does not care for the appearance of the land, he can deaden the trees, and would not need to clear it any more. In some places there are trees, but not close together. The very large timber has been cut off. No man needs to go there thinking he would need to buy firewood; he will always have fuel.

I would recommend the country to any one, and especially to those who wish to go where they would be benefited by the climate. It is a delightful place to live.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. B. WELLES.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Nov. 5, 1895.

CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES, City.

Gentlemen:—Complying with your request, I beg to say that the El Provedo Cigar Factory was opened up in the city of Tallahassee September 1st, with 100 operatives. Our building is a two-story brick

building, occupying a lot 120 by 130 feet, and gives us a floor space of 30,000 square feet. Prior to beginning the manufacture of cigars here, the firm had bought in Leon and Gadsden Counties 40,000 pounds of tobacco. Since that time we have purchased in these two counties about 150,000 pounds. The average price of this tobacco is from 6 cents to 40 cents per pound for running crops taken from the barns. The average price is about 25 cents per pound. The average yield is 500 pounds per acre. The cost of production is about \$30 per acre.

I can discover no difference in the quality of tobacco raised in the two counties. Of course, some parts of Gadsden County produce poor tobacco, and there are some sections in Leon that will not produce good tobacco.

The number of our operatives has increased since the first of September, when we started operations here, until on the first of November we have 200 hands on our rolls.

We make a specialty of hand-made Havana goods, and have contracts for our entire output.

Very truly yours,
EL PROVEDO CIGAR FACTORY,
(Signed) JULIUS HIRSCHBERG.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Aug. 3, 1895.

MY DEAR WIFE, SON AND DAUGHTER,
Chicago, Illinois.

Since writing you from Lanark-on-the-Gulf, I have thoroughly gone over the lands owned by the Clark Syndicate Companies, and find them in every way equal to the claims made in their printed circulars. After looking the ground well over, I selected and bought a house and ten acres of improved land in Hilliardville, twelve miles south of here, on the Companies' Railroad, also 230 acres of farm land one mile west of the Hilliardville depot. The farm is perfect in every way, and will make an ideal place for poultry raising; in fact, a man can raise most anything on this land. You will like it down here very much, for a more pleasant climate and more courteous and hospitable people cannot be found. To my surprise they are as cordial to us as though we were Southerners, and seem anxious to do all in their power to encourage Northern immigration.

This is surely the best country in the world for a man of moderate means, and it is equally good for a man with means.

I have a selection of fruits that I got along the road which I will bring home so that you may see what can be raised in that line.

Your loving father and husband,
(Signed) S. HALSTED.GREAT ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY THE
STATE OF FLORIDA.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

Mr. W. H. Williams, whose place is just outside the incorporation limits of the town of Clear Water, planted one quarter of an acre in sweet potatoes one year ago last July. He harvested seventy-five bushels of excellent potatoes; planted turnips and gathered a good crop, and then put in the seed for a crop of watermelons on the same land. He gathered fruit from his third planting within less than a year from the time the first crop was put in the ground. Two months later he cut a fine lot of hay from the same ground, and his land is now in splendid condition for winter gardening.—*Clear Water Harbor Press*.

Florida, with a population of about 465,000, had a death-rate the past year of about seven to the thousand, making it beyond question one of the healthiest states in the Union.—*Florida Grove and Garden*.

A mistaken tendency is prevalent, even among people within our own borders, to speak of Florida as a small state. In square miles of land susceptible of being profitably cultivated, and in capacity for comfortably supporting a dense population, it stands prominently among the states. It has an extent of sea-coast twice that of any other state. It has a balmy and salubrious climate. Its numerous fresh-water lakes and rivers, salt-water bays and bayous teem with many varieties of edible fish. Its forests and fields are the sportsman's paradise.

Florida reaches three degrees of latitude nearer the torrid zone than any other state in the Union. Its mean atmospheric pressure is higher than that of any other state. Its rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year. Crops of some kind can be grown the year round, and there is not a week in winter too cold for outdoor work. While rain falls often in Florida, giving planters excellent "seasons" for their crops, there is more sunshine during the year than in any other part of the United States.

To the pleasure-seeker, the health-seeker, the home-seeker and the money-seeker Florida offers a wide range of inducements and opportunities. Its natural advantages are unequalled. There are numerous embryonic industries awaiting capital to develop them. For agricultural operations no state offers greater possibilities. The housing of cattle in winter is not a necessity, and the luxuriant growth of native grasses makes the feeding of stock a small item of cost.

For educational advantages, transportation facilities, fertile lands at low prices, and other features of a character to induce persons of small means to establish homes, Florida is unequalled.—*Florida Citizen*.

The production of pears, peaches, plums and nut crops is rapidly bringing this section to the front as one of the most productive regions of the South. Naturally our great competitor in deciduous fruits is California. We have many advantages over our brother fruit raisers there. Our fruit is of much finer flavor, it ripens earlier, and we can put it on the market in less than half the time, at less than half the cost. Lands are still very cheap, though steadily rising in value, and as each crop of fruit is marketed the values will rise until the expression, "poor-piney-woods," as applied to the highlands of West Florida, will be a thing of the past.—*Florida Grove and Garden*.

WHAT FLORIDA CAN DO.

Of the Southern states Florida has the greatest diversity. She produces cotton, and is near enough to the ore beds to manufacture products of steel. Sheep raising would pay, and furnish cheap raw material for woolen factories. This state is now and always will be one of the leading cigar manufacturing states in the Union. Its wealth of timber ought to make it a great furniture manufacturing, wood-working and ship-building state. It will, sooner or later, supply the entire country with its jute, ramie, sisal, palmetto, and other fibrous products, in their manufactured forms. The phosphate beds at it for the center of fertilizer manufacturing. Canning factories will pay their highest dividends here, and will relieve the state of its surplus of fruits and vegetables.

Whatever grows, grows in Florida. Whatever is manufactured, can be manufactured here with profit; and surrounded as we are by the ocean and the gulf, and cut up by navigable rivers, the products of this state will find cheaper transportation than those of the interior to the markets of the world. The South Atlantic and Gulf states will some day constitute an immense hive of industry, manufacturing for home use and the South American trade, and Florida, the nearest to the South American market, will get her share of the trade.

These are facts that those who are looking for Southern locations for manufacturing establishments will do well to consider. They will save money by investing in this state.—*Times-Union*.

A crop of sweet potatoes is easily raised by any Florida farmer who will put in his work at the right time—when the rains come—and no crop yields a better or more profitable return. They keep better than most vegetables, may be gathered at a convenient season, always bringing a fair price. They are excellent food for man and beast, economical and very healthful, and their growth does not impoverish the land.—*Clear Water Press*.

Probably no other state in the Union is possessed of such wonderfully recuperative powers as Florida. In the first place, her resources have never been taxed to their utmost capacity. The truth is she has never shown the world what she is capable of doing, for the opportunities of creating labor into cash have never been fully tested.

Never before in the history of the state has such a large crop of vegetables been grown—the estimated returns from which reach \$2,000,000—while along the different lines of railroad nearly 11,000 acres of melons are growing. The strawberries are bringing handsome returns, and it is said that the peach crop will be a big money-maker.—*Florida Grove and Garden*.

The Florida weather and crop bulletin for the week ending July 8th says:

"Heavy rains prevailed over Santa Rosa and Escambia counties, enabling farmers to finish planting an unusually large acreage of sweet potatoes. Activity in this line also ruled in Leon County. The latter county reports the best corn crop for several years, and that all crops are doing well. Large shipments of pears are being made from the district. The fruit, while plentiful, is not as large as is customary, due, it is said, to the large yield. The several varieties of grapes have been prolific, and daily shipments are going forward. Information points to general satisfaction with crop conditions."—*Florida Grove and Garden*.

If I had plenty of this world's goods—or the necessary wherewithal that oils the wheels of life's chariot so effectually—I would be content to live and die right here in Tallahassee. Its sunshine and shadows, its perfumes, its bird-songs, its social dullness and languor make it about the loveliest, drowsiest and dreamiest old town I have ever seen. Its oasis-like isolation and tangled luxuriance of semi-tropical vegetation, the genuine hospitality of

its people, the absence of noise and hustle and the general air of "taking things as they come," make it as unlike a hustling Eastern city—or even dear old Memphis—as anything one could imagine.

The city nestles among innumerable trees upon a hilltop whose steepness is not apparent until you attempt to climb it, and whose sunny slope is dotted by thrifty pear orchards of considerable dimensions—this fruit and grape culture being extensively engaged in. I have every day been more and more impressed with the great error into which I had fallen as to the topography of Florida. Somehow I had imagined the country as a vast tropical plain, covered with trees, reeds and big thickets half submerged in water. I had not dreamed of a picturesque hill country like this, which reaches for miles and miles about Tallahassee.—*Memphis Appeal*.

EMIGRATION TO THE SOUTH.

It is no longer westward but southward that the star of empire takes its way. As set forth in the *Times-Herald* yesterday, the march of emigration is making a wide sweep toward the milder climates of the South, and men and women are fleeing from regions of eight and nine months' winter to a more equable zone. They are beginning to discover that it is an immense waste of energy and money to spend more than one half of their earnings and two thirds of their time in the mere effort to keep warm and comfortable when they may have that condition for nothing.

That this impulse was bound to come just as soon as the Southern states recovered from the effects of the war and became accustomed to new channels of business and labor has long been foreseen. The progressive southerners have themselves been alert to bring about this better day, and their spirit has been manifested, not only in the success of the Atlanta Exposition, but in the vast industries that have prospered at Birmingham, at Chattanooga, at Knoxville and other notable points in the South.

The people understand, also, that the negro problem, if not settled, is in process of settlement, and that it is at least no longer a source of irritation. Hence, that barrier is thrown down, and there is no deterrent cause to bar the overflow of humanity from the busier and more active hives of the world.

And this is all the South needs, a teeming population, to develop its vast natural resources, to dot it with towns and cities, to make it laugh with fruitful harvests and a material prosperity such as few countries have enjoyed.

And with this prosperity comes the better feeling, North and South, that grows out of homogeneity of purpose and pursuit.—*Chicago Times-Herald*.

POINTS FOR FARMERS ON CLARK
SYNDICATE LANDS.

First, as to the best methods of utilizing small farms on our pine lands. This would depend on the capital and inclination of the farmer. Assuming the latter to have small capital, he should by all means raise cattle, hogs, sheep, goats and poultry. Pasturage is excellent and ample for the support of such stock nine months in the year. In fact, native farmers never feed their cattle, sheep or hogs, except hogs to be fattened for slaughter, but a little feed during December, January and February is profitable. Manure from this stock, together with forest leaves and mold, will soon enrich the lands and insure fine crops.

Pecans, Japanese chestnuts, peaches, figs, grapes, plums, strawberries and all kinds of melons and other small fruits may be quickly and profitably grown. The setting of fruit-trees will add nothing to the cost of cultivating the lands; that is, the same labor employed in growing the regular crops will plant and care for the fruit-trees, and the time consumed doing this will be so little as to add nothing to the expense of operating a farm.

The third year should bring some returns from peaches, plums and some other fruits, which will increase from year to year. Between the trees all kinds of vegetables and many field crops may be grown. As soon as one crop is taken from the land, another may be sown; thus, by a succession of crops, made possible by our climate, a ten-acre farm will procure as much as twenty or thirty acres in Northern latitudes. Corn, peas, sweet potatoes, tobacco, beans and sugar-cane should be the principal field crops. I do not know of a single garden vegetable that cannot be grown to perfection here.

Cattle and hogs consume what would otherwise be waste products, converting them into the best manure, and they, in turn, are readily convertible into cash. They constitute, together with poultry, a very great source of profit to the small farmer. Poultry and hogs thrive very well in this section, and require very little attention. There are excellent near-by markets which pay remunerative prices for eggs and fowls of all kinds.

M. H. Johnson, in Leon County, Florida, planted eight acres in tobacco, at a cost of three hundred dollars, everything included. From the eight acres he sold 4,400 pounds of cigar-leaf for \$1,980, leaving him a profit of \$1,680 on the eight acres planted.—*Exchange*.

Baco-Curo

The only scientific cure for the Tobacco habit.

Baco-Curo

Cures when all other remedies fail. (Write for proofs).

Baco-Curo

Does not depend on the will power of the user. It is the Cure. Vegetable and harmless.

Baco-Curo

Directions are clear: "Use all the Tobacco you want until Baco-Curo notifies you to stop."

Baco-Curo

Is the Original Written Guarantee Remedy that refunds your money if it fails to cure.

Baco-Curo

Does the Curing. Its Competitors do the Blowing.

Investigate Baco-Curo before you buy any remedy for the Tobacco Habit.

The U. S. Courts have just decided that BACO-CURO is what it Pretends to be

A CURE. WHICH DO YOU WANT? **A CURE OR A SUBSTITUTE?** One box \$1.00; three boxes (and guaranteed cure) \$2.50, at all druggists, or sent direct on receipt of price. Write for free booklet and proofs. EUREKA CHEMICAL & MFG. CO., LaCrosse, Wis.

H. D. ROUGH, Buchanan, Michigan, \$5 A DAY. Will teach you how to make FLAVORING EXTRACTS. Sure sales.

RUBBER STAMPS. Best made. Immense Catalogue Free to agents. The G. A. HARPER MFG. CO., Cleveland, O.

WE PAY \$5.00 to \$100.00 for all kinds News-paper Clippings & Advertisements. Particulars for stamp, News Clipping Co., Dept. A. A. 304 W. 139th St. N. Y.

MEN and BOYS wanted to distribute circulars, samples of tobacco, medicines, newspapers, etc. \$3 to \$5 a day; no canvassing, hustlers wanted. Send 2c stamp. CIRCULAR ADV. CO. Kansas City, Mo.

WATCH 98c. SEND FOR CATALOGUE OF WATCHES, JEWELRY AND NOTIONS. CHEAPEST PRICES IN AMERICA. WILLIAMS WATCH CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

SPEX BIG MONEY IN SPECTACLES. Send for our Optical Catalogue—just out. New goods. Opt prices. F. E. BAILEY, Chicago, Ill.

LADIES MAKE BIG MONEY selling our Mackintosh Skirt and other new goods. Fresh territory. Be first. Catalog free. LADIES SUPPLY CO., 3118 Forest Ave., Chicago.

AGENTS to sell cigars to dealers; \$18 weekly, experience not required. Samples free. Reply with 2-cent stamp. NATIONAL CONSOLIDATED CO., Chicago, Ill.

WANTED—Salesmen to sell Cigars; \$100 monthly easily made; best inducements ever offered. Experience unnecessary. Inclose stamp. ACME CIGAR CO., CHICAGO.

\$50 a week. 10 fast sellers; agents wanted; catalogue free; write Brewster Mfg Co, Holly, Mich

\$95 WEEKLY \$5,000 yearly, no experience required, failure impossible; our scheme a new one; particulars free. Address S. S. Ware Co. Box 5308, Boston, Mass.

FREE Catalogue of Speakers' Dialogues, Plays, Drills, Teachers' Aids, Letter Writers, Amusements, Fortunes Tellers, Dream books, etc. Dick & Fitzgerald, 24 Ann St., N. Y.

AGENTS We have the highest bargains in Premiums ever offered subscribers. You can earn good wages by engaging with us. Write for full particulars. They are free to you. Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

SELL MUSIC and MAKE MONEY For particulars send us 6 cts. in stamps, and we will send you \$2.00 worth of the latest popular full-size music, vocal and instrumental, with terms to agents EVERY MONTH, 4 East 20th Street, New York City.

WOULD YOU Like a permanent position and \$150 monthly, if so write us at once. We will send you full particulars free, or a valuable sample of our goods in Sterling Silver upon receipt of Five Two cent stamps for postage, etc. Address Standard Silver Ware Co., Boston, Mass.

CENT for a postal card is all it will cost you to write us for the best selling specialty ever offered. They are used every day by everybody in every household. We pay express, give an elegant premium and instruct you free. Any lady or gent can make \$4 a day easy. If you want the job, write at once. PEOPLES MFG. CO., 103 Valpey Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

SALARY AND COMMISSION

With allowance for expenses, to one live, wide-awake man or woman in each town or city, to introduce goods on a brand-new scheme, never before worked, resulting in quick sale at almost every house. Steady work for the right person. Address at once, LOCK BOX 488, Springfield, Ohio.

\$10 A DAY TO AGENTS! You can secure \$10 a day in the Dish Washer and Self Heating Iron business. It is booming now. Everybody wants a Climax Washer and Self Heating Iron now. One agent cleared \$20 every day for a year; a good chance; best Dish Washer made; no soliciting; Dish Washers and Self Heating Irons sold at home; a permanent position in town, city or country. One million to be sold. A wide-awake hustler can clear \$15 to \$20 a day easy; washes and dries in two minutes. Climax Mfg. Co., 51 Starr Ave., Columbus, O.

Will \$500 Help You Out? If so, you can have it! We offer you the Sole Agency for an article that is Wanted in Every Home and Indispensable in Every Office, something that SELLS AT SIGHT. Other articles sell rapidly at Double the Price, though not answering the purpose half so well. You can make from \$500 to \$700 in three months, introducing it, after which it will bring a Steady, Liberal Income, if properly attended to. Ladies do as well as men, in town or country. Don't Miss this Chance. Write at once to J. W. JONES, Manager, Springfield, Ohio.

\$15 to \$40 Per Week Can be made representing Big pay guaranteed from the start. The work is easy and lasts the year round. Persons preferred who can work full time. Spare hours, though, can be turned to splendid account. Good openings can be secured in cities, towns, or in the country.

\$865 Given Away In Six Grand Prizes. Those who want to get ahead in the world, will find here their opportunity to do it. Write at once for all the particulars. Mast, Crowell & Kirkpatrick, Care of Department B, Springfield, Ohio.

Smiles.

THE SILVER SITUATION.

The winklewad whortled its way through the dark,
As the spadgerwick snooted a scent from afar;
The snickerloot skecked on the suoot of a shark,
And the inklebot kinkled the glune of a gar.

The suckerjab scrietled through thick and thin,
In quest of the scuttlejok, ruttling beyent;
The carpywog whetted the flange of its fin,
And filipped a spuke at the scortle, hell bent.

The nimblewot welkered a whin at the moon,
As the jinglebox joined in the chorus of wrath,
While the whangdoodles lilted the day of the loon,
And jumblewhacks gobbled the dank aftermath.

But in spite of this argument, strong as it is,
And spite of the boomlet late brought about,
The symptoms all point to an argentic fizz;
It appears that free silver's about petered out.

—New York Sun.

As I grow old, more dross than gold
Appears in life's alloy;
And buckwheat cakes don't seem as big
As when I was a boy.

—New York Journal.

The man who sighs for the happy day
When a barefoot boy he ran,
Is the same old boy who used to say:
"I wisht I wuz a man."

—Philadelphia Record.

DEGENERATE ENGLISH.

THE possibilities of the English language have frequently been taxed to describe the great American game of base-ball, but for striking illustration, this from the Herald, of Quincy, Ill., has rarely been equaled:

"The glass-armed toy soldiers of this town were fed to the pigs yesterday by the cadaverous Indian grave-robbers from Omaha. The flabby, one-lunged Reubens who represent the Gem City in the rush for the base-ball pennant had their shins toasted by the basilisk-eyed cattle-drivers from the West. They stood around with gaping eyeballs like a hen on a hot nail, suffering the grizzly yaps from Omaha to run the bases until their necks were long with thirst. Hickey had more errors than 'Coin's Financial School,' and led the rheumatic procession to the morgue. The Quineys were full of straw and scrap-iron. They couldn't hit a brick-wagon with a pick-ax, and ran bases like pall-bearers at a funeral. If three-base hits were growing on the back of every man's neck, they couldn't reach 'em with a feather duster. It looked as if the Amalgamated Union of South American Hoodoos was in session for work in the thirty-third degree. The geezers stood about and whistled for help, and were so weak they couldn't lift a glass of beer if it had been all foam. Everything was yellow, rocky and whangbasted, like a stigtossel full of doglegammon. The game was whiskered and frost-bitten. The Omahogs were bad enough, but the Quincy Brown Sox had their fins sewed up until they couldn't hold a crazy-quilt unless it was tied around their necks."

SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE.

Little Nau, of four summers, considering it her duty to entertain a lady who is waiting for mama, enters into conversation:
Nan—"Have you any little girls?"
The caller—"Yes, I have two."
Nau—"D—do you ever have to whip 'em?"
The caller—"I'm afraid I have to, sometimes."
Nau—"What do you whip 'em with?"
The caller (amused)—"Oh, when they've been very naughty I take my slipper."
Nan (most feelingly, as mama enters)—"Y—yo—you ought to take a hair-brush; my mama does, and it hurts awfully."—Pittsburg Bulletin.

UP TO DATE.

Sunday-school superintendent—"Now, who was it that was despoiled by his brethren of his raiment, and afterward became the king's most trusted adviser?"
Johnny (who reads the papers)—"Li Hung Chang."

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

AN AWKWARD QUESTION.

A gentleman recently visited a new district police-station, and was shown over the building by the officer in charge.

He related the circumstance of his visit at home in the hearing of his youngest son, a little fellow four years of age. A few weeks later father and son were traveling by rail to a town some miles distant, when just before reaching their destination the train was pulled up within sight of a large, gloomy-looking building.

The son inquired what place it was, and on being informed that it was the county jail, he embarrassed his father and made the other occupants of the carriage look suspicious by asking:

"Was that the jail you were in, father?"—London Paper.

A GREAT FISH.

A tough fish story is related which may or may not be true, and as it relates to an Atlantian, we print it. The story goes that one spring, while a party of Atlantians were fishing at the dead lakes, in Florida, a well-known Atlanta lawyer lost his gold watch from the boat in which he was sitting. The next spring he made another visit to the lakes, and during the first day's sport caught an eight-pound trout. His astonishment could be imagined when he found his watch lodged in the mouth of the trout. The watch was running, and the time correct. It being a stem-winder, the supposition is that in masticating his food the fish wound up the watch daily.—Atlanta Constitution.

A REFORMER.

"I'm a dress reformer," said the mild-faced little woman. "I wasn't some years ago, but I am now."

"Why, I shouldn't have expected it," replied the man to whom she was talking. "You certainly don't put your ideas into practice."

"Oh, yes, I do. I believe in women wearing gowns and feminine neckwear and head-gear just as our grandmothers did."—Washington Star.

NO GREAT DIFFICULTY.

A greedy boy is capable of clever misunderstandings.

"No, Willie, my dear," said the little boy's mother, "no more cakes to-night. It is too near bedtime, and you know you can't sleep on a full stomach."

"Well," said Willie, "but I can sleep on my back."—Harper's Round Table.

TOO MUCH VARIETY.

Mrs. Wickwire sat up and shook her sleeping husband's shoulder vigorously.

"What is it?" he mumbled.

"I want you to snore either in soprano, bass, alto or tenor, and confine yourself to one tone. You keep switchebing from one to another so rapidly that I can't sleep."—Indianapolis Sentinel.

TOUGH ON THE CAT.

Little Mrs. Justwed (sobbingly)—"Ju-ju-just think, Harold! The cuc-cuc-cat has eaten all of the angel-cake I bub-baked this m-m-morning! And, oh—boo, hoo, ho-o-o-o!"

Mr. Justwed (soothingly)—"There, there, darling! Don't cry about it. I'll get you another cat to-morrow."—Puck.

LITTLE BITS.

"Ah," he sighed, as his wife went to confer with the delegation of her constituents, "this is no such campaign as mother used to make."—Detroit Tribune.

"Why, Jimmie, my darling boy, you've got the medal for good behavior this week!" said the fond mother, noting the little silver medal on her son's vest.

"Yessum," said Jimmie. "Tommy Roberts won it, but I told him I'd knock the head off him if he didn't give it to me."—Harper's Bazar.

"I shall be dreadfully stupid now," said the wife, who had just returned from the dentist's.

"Why so, my dear?" asked her husband.

"I have had all my wisdom-teeth pulled out," she replied.

"Of course, my love," said her husband, with the best intention in the world, "you know it is nothing but a superstitious idea that wisdom-teeth have anything to do with wisdom. If you were to have every tooth in your head drawn, it couldn't make you any more stupid, you know."

He succeeded after awhile in smothering matters over, but it was a narrow escape.

"It is not enough that bicycles carry bells; the law should enforce a regular system of signals that all can understand," observed the first citizen.

"Well, what would you suggest?" asked the second citizen.

"I don't know exactly, but it might be something like this: One ring, stand still; two rings, dodge to the right; three rings, dive to the left; four rings, jump straight up and I'll run under you; five rings, turn a back hand-spring and land behind me, and so on. You see, us folks who walk are always glad to be accommodating, but the trouble is to find out what the fellow behind wants us to do."

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W. F. Allen, Jr., Salisbury, Md. Allen's catalogue of choice strawberry-plants.

Frank L. Jones, Utica, N. Y. Descriptive price-list of apparatus, supplies and specialties for cheese factories, creameries and dairies.

Aultman, Miller & Co., Akron, Ohio. Mowers, binders, reapers, binder-twines and corn-harvesters.

Des Moines Incubator Co., Des Moines, Iowa. Illustrated catalogue of incubators and brooders.

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Thales, Solon, Eudoxus, Pythagoras and Plato all studied there; perhaps Moses, too. It was also the birthplace of the sacred literature of Egypt, where were written on papyrus leaves the original chapters of the oldest book in the world, generally known as "The Book of the Dead," giving a most striking account of the conflicts and triumphs of the life after death, a whole copy or fragment of which every Egyptian, rich or poor, wished to have buried with him in his coffin, and portions of which are found inscribed on every mummy-case and on the walls of every tomb. In front of one of the principal temples of the sun, in this magnificent city, stood, along with a companion, long since destroyed, the solitary obelisk which we now behold on the spot. It alone has survived the wreck of all the glory of the place. It was constructed by Userthesen I., who is supposed to have reigned 2,800 years B. C., and has outlived all the dynastic changes of the land, and still stands where it originally stood nearly forty-seven centuries ago. What appears of its shaft above ground is sixty-eight feet in height, but its base is buried in the mud of the Nile, and year after year the inundation of the river deposits its film of soil around its foot and buries it still deeper in its sacred grave.

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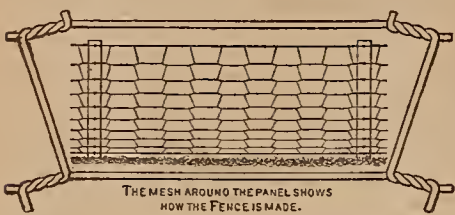
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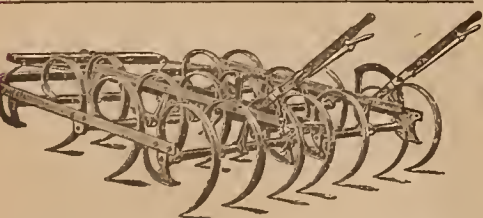


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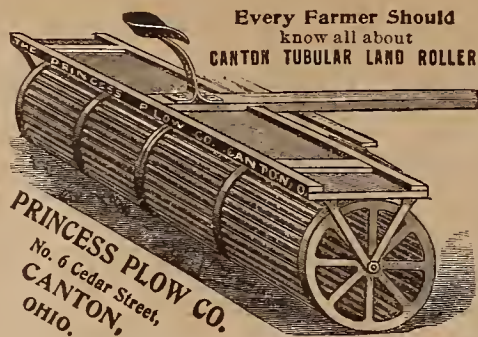
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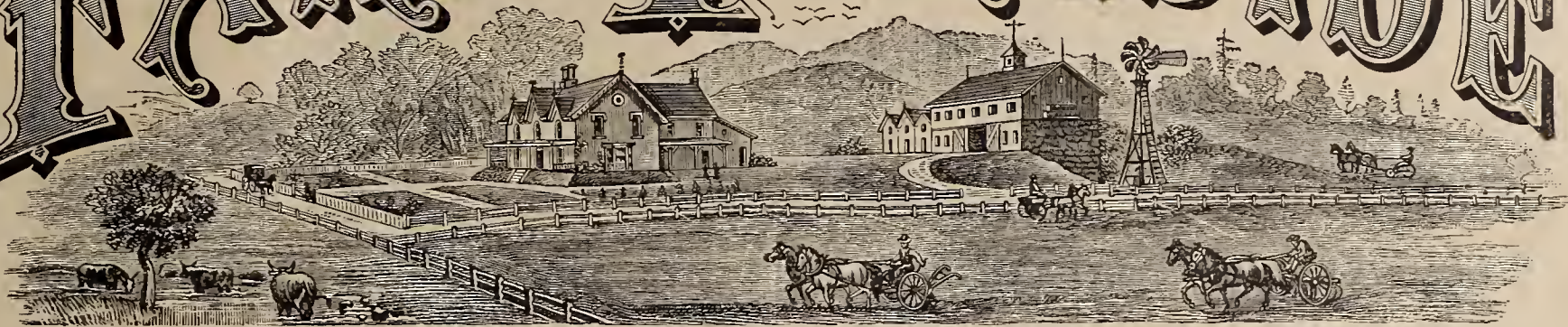
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FARM AND FIRESIDE



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Entered at the Post-office at Springfield, Ohio, as second-class mail matter.

VOL. XIX. NO. 10.

FEBRUARY 15, 1896.

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conservative position. That balance has perhaps never been so low as it is to-day. Indeed, the process of liquidation has been so complete and radical that it is doubtful whether, outside of our securities permanently held by foreigners, this country has for twenty years been so completely out of debt to other nations as it is to-day."

IN the opening address at the annual convention of the National Manufacturers' Association, President Dolan said:

"Among the wealth-creators of the United States the manufacturers rank next after the farmers; and with the prosperity of both classes of producers the welfare of the nation is bound up in a positive manner. If a patriotic American rejoice, as he must, at the census figures which show that the total capital invested in manufactures rose from \$1,000,000,000 in 1860 to \$5,500,000,000 in 1890; that the number of workmen increased from 1,330,000 to nearly 5,000,000, and the value of the product rose from \$1,900,000,000 to \$9,300,000,000, his rejoicing is at the fruit of the skill, energy, courage and persistence manifested through three decades by the men who are represented by you upon the floor of this convention.

"And the magnificent consequences of the forward movement of American manufacturers do, indeed, offer full warrant for exultation; for, not alone do they show that the country within half a century has moved up from the fourth or fifth place among manufacturing nations to the uncontested leadership; not alone do they indicate the progression of the people toward that industrial independence which is the condition of highest prosperity; they prove also that we are giving profitable employment to our people, providing a home market for our agricultural products and other raw materials, retaining profits which once enriched the foreigner, and creating wealth which our own people may enjoy. Surely, it is well that a nation like ours should be self-contained and self-dependent. And, to reach that conclusion, seeing that we are certain of our ability to feed ourselves, and to produce at home all the primary substances from which fabrics are made, it is alone necessary that we should do here all the work of fabrication which is required for the supply of the needs of our people."

IN 1853 Secretary of State Edward Everett said: "The island of Cuba lies at our doors. It commands the approach to the Gulf of Mexico, which touches the shores of five of our states. It bars the entrance of that great river which drains half the North American continent, and, with its tributaries, forms the largest system of internal water communication in the world. It keeps watch at the doorway of our intercourse with California."

The government or control of Cuba by reason of its commanding geographical position is a matter of concern to the United States. Whether it shall become free and develop its great natural resources, continue under the oppressive and repressive rule of Spain, or pass under the control of England, is of great importance to us. On higher grounds, however, are the peo-

ple of the United States interested in Cuban affairs. The efforts of any people to obtain free, popular government naturally excite our interest. But when, as in the case of Cuba, the struggle for self-government is also a struggle against despotic tyranny of the worst form, it commands our warmest sympathies. The Cuban patriots are struggling to throw off a galling yoke of oppression and to gain the ordinary political rights enjoyed in free countries.

The revolution began in one province one year ago. The Cubans now have a well-organized army of over 50,000 men, and control the whole island, with the exception of Havana and the few ports protected by the Spanish navy. Spain has poured out many millions of treasure and placed over 120,000 soldiers in the field, but has been unable to check the progress of the revolutionists.

Affairs seem to have reached a crisis. Spain has acknowledged failure by recalling Captain-general Campos, but will make another effort under a new commander, General Weyler, to hold Cuba under her dominion. As a necessary and effective measure of war, the Cuban armies have destroyed the cane and tobacco crops. Trade and commerce have been totally paralyzed, and Spain has been deprived of her Cuban revenues.

With political troubles brewing at home, with enormous expenditures and a depleted treasury, and the campaign under her ablest general a failure, it does not appear probable that Spain can oppose the Cuban patriots much longer. Their victory is only a question of time. In the name of humanity and justice, the Cubans call upon the United States to accord to them the rights of belligerency.

THE AMERICAN COTTON GROWERS' convention, recently held in Memphis, adopted resolutions and issued a strong address urging farmers to decrease the acreage in cotton and to diversify their crops. The resolutions, in part, read as follows:

"WHEREAS, Experience has taught the planters of the South that the overproduction of cotton reduces the value of that commodity far below the cost of making it, and at the same time tends to reduce the value of their other assets by rendering southern land unprofitable, be it

"Resolved, That the attention of the planters be called to the fact that they are now masters of the situation. The crop of 1895 being less than 7,000,000 bales, renders it entirely feasible by a further and reasonable reduction of acreage during the present year to materially advance the price of cotton, and thus insure a safe and substantial profit that cannot fail to bring increased prosperity to the South, not only as the immediate result of such profit, but by enhancing the value of our lands and turning hither the tide of immigration so much needed for the development of the great natural resources of this favored section.

"Resolved, That we earnestly urge all producers of cotton to take advantage of

this golden opportunity, and to continue the wise policy adopted during the past season, of making the South self-supporting, by first producing an abundant supply of corn, hay, meal and other like commodities for home consumption, and by decreasing the cotton acreage still further as a matter of prime importance, thus guarding against the dangers of overproduction and leaving the cotton as a surplus crop."

The following appears in the address to the cotton-planters: "It is a matter of extreme congratulation that the appeal made to you last year was so generally responded to, and that the crop of 1895 was made upon a diminished acreage, and had the effect of greatly increasing the price and bringing prosperity to the country. The crop of 1895, though estimated to be 3,400,000 bales short of the crop of 1894, was in the markets of the world worth more by nearly \$30,000,000. In the face of this result, to abandon the idea of diminished acreage would be to sound the retreat in the face of victory. It is the consensus of opinion among the best thinkers that if, by any means, the cotton crop of America could be held within the limits of 7,000,000 bales per annum for ten years, the people of the southern states would be the richest and most prosperous agricultural people in the world.

Let the corn-growers profit by the example of the cotton-growers. Their experience during the same two years was almost the reverse. The corn crop of 1894 was 1,213,000,000 bushels, and the estimated farm value \$554,720,000. The crop of 1895 was over 2,151,000,000 bushels, and the estimated farm value \$567,509,000. The magnificent increase in yield of 938,000,000 bushels was accompanied by a decline in the farm price of nearly twenty cents a bushel. The lesson of this experience is a diminished acreage of corn this year. Experience hits harder than resolutions and appeals.

THERE is pending in Congress a bill to amend the immigration laws by providing for the exclusion of all persons between fourteen and sixty years of age who cannot both read and write the English language or some other language.

That there is urgent need of further restricting immigration does not admit of a doubt. It is claimed that this simple educational test would shut out a large part of the most undesirable foreign element and greatly reduce the total number of immigrants.

It is a moderate, rational measure, and doubtless will meet with general approval. From investigations it appears that about nine tenths of illiterate immigrants remain on the Atlantic seaboard, and that the majority of them quickly drift to the slums of the large cities. Therefore, it is mainly the East that would be benefited directly by the adoption of the measure; the West would be little affected by the educational test. There is no part of the country that does not now have an oversupply of illiterates, both home-grown and imported. The absolute exclusion of illiterate immigrants is a wise policy.

WITH THE VANGUARD

THE Weekly Financial Review takes a hopeful view of the future, and gives the reasons for its faith, as follows:

"The general conditions affecting financial affairs are working into a more settled and normal state. The widespread process of liquidation that has been in operation for many months, indeed, for nearly three years past, seems to have culminated. Foreigners have ceased to return our securities; the scare and distrust of English investors has not only abated, but is succeeded by occasional spurts of demand for our stocks and bonds. Continental bankers are understood to have shown a gratifying confidence in American credit by important bids for the new issue of government bonds, thereby intimating that they take our currency derangements less seriously than do the Anglo-Saxons. Our trade balance is getting into a more wholesome shape. The excessive imports that followed the reduction of import duties are now rapidly abating. Our exports, held back for four months following the harvest, are now going out in much larger volume, and that in the face of advancing prices for farm products. The extraordinary changes in European politics and the dangers thereby suggested are making foreign investors more willing to consider the merits of American securities, owing to their exemption from the contingencies now affecting the Old World issues. The foreign exchanges are turning quite decidedly in our favor. Gold is coming from London, and although the arrivals are rather due to subscriptions to the new loan than to ordinary commercial remittances, yet the bonds going out will help to ease our balance with Europe, and may possibly reach the result of making the importation of gold a paying operation. The item of foreign balances resting here is in an unusually

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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When renewing your subscription, do not fail to say it is a renewal. If all our subscribers will do this, a great deal of trouble will be avoided. Also give your name and initials just as now on the yellow address label; don't change it to some other member of the family; if the paper is now coming in your wife's name, sign her name, just as it is on label, to your letter of renewal. Always name your post-office.

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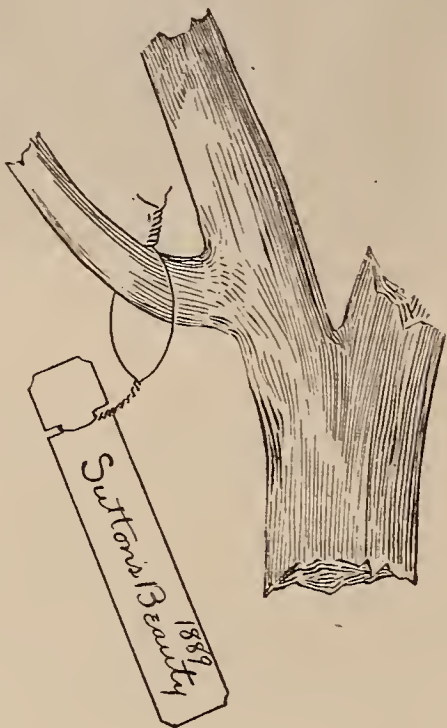
We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Garden

Labels.

Labels are a very important portion of my garden equipment. I must know the names of the different varieties of fruits or vegetables which I grow, or else lose most of my enjoyment (and perhaps profit) in garden work. To label my vegetables in open ground, I use various sizes of small stakes, sharpened at one end, to be driven a few inches into the ground at the



head of the row, and the name of vegetable or a simple number, corresponding with the number of entry in my note-book.

Tree

Labels.

For tree labels we need something more lasting. In the third edition of the "Horticulturist's Rule Book" (a book which deserves to be in the hands of every fruit-grower, truck gardener, florist and amateur; compiled by Prof. L. H. Bailey, third enlarged edition just published by Macmillan & Co., New York; price, in cloth binding, 75 cents) I find a description of the "Cornell" tree label. This label is made from the "package label" used by

nurserymen. "It is a pine, notched tally six inches long and one and one fourth inches wide. Cost, painted, about \$1.30 per thousand. These are wired with heavy, stiff wire not less than eighteen inches long, so that the loop is five or six inches across. The labels are hung on one of the lower limbs of the tree, where they are very conspicuous. The ends of the wire are hooked together around the limb by means of pincers, and being stiff, it is not readily removed by careless or mischievous persons. The name is written firmly with a very soft, black lead-pencil, and when the label is hung upon the tree, it is dipped in thin white lead, which fixes the writing and preserves it almost indefinitely, or the name may be written firmly into a fresh coat of white lead." I fastened such labels on my trees in the spring of 1889. The names were written with pencil into this fresh coat of white lead, and they are plainly legible now, and will be for years to come. I have also used labels made of small strips of common zinc, the name being written on the metal with a lead-pencil. The label is wound about a limb, and it expands as the part grows. But it is rather inconspicuous, and not near as satisfactory as the larger wooden labels.

Nutritive Ratio

in Oat Straw.

A reader in North Dakota, Mr. Wm. H. Best, writes as follows: "The remarks of T. Greiner, under 'Notes on Rural Affairs,' in No. 8 of FARM AND FIRESIDE, are very appropriate, and the rebuke he gives to the use of scientific terms in the explanation of the composition of feeding-stuffs, and their office in supplying nutriment to the different elements of the animal body, when writing for or talking to the average farmer, is deserving of more than a passing notice.

"I wish to call attention, however, to Mr. Greiner's conclusion as to the nutritive ratio of oat straw, which he places at 1.12. It must be borne in mind that it is only the digestible portions of the different foods that are of any use to the animal fed, and that in determining the nutritive ratio of foods, only the percentage of digestible materials must be considered. Mr. Greiner has used in his computation the full chemical composition of oat straw. From the table of digestible food ingredients,

page 7, Bulletin 22, United States Department of Agriculture, I find that one ton of oat straw contains 31.6 pounds of "flesh former," 832.6 pounds of "heat and fat former," and 14.8 pounds of "fat," making a nutritive ratio of only 1 to 27.4 instead of 1 to 12.

"The chemical analyses of feeding-stuffs vary according to the atmospheric conditions in which the food was matured, and thus we find Armsby, of the Pennsylvania experiment station, only giving oat straw a nutritive ratio of 1 to 32.8, and Snyder, of the Minnesota station, placing the nutritive ratio of the oat straw of his state at 1 to 29.

"I have had quite an experience in feeding straw in this climate, but have always fed bran, shorts and ground oil-cake in connection with the straw, and have never had sick stock during the winter, and have invariably brought the stock out in good condition, and with much less expense, than if fed entirely upon hay, without grain."

I have wanted to speak of this very same thing before. Some of the published tables of constituents of food materials are slightly misleading, especially in theory. We have no particular reason to consider the indigestible portions of foods. I will not take the pains now to verify the exact figures given by our correspondent. I gave oat straw only as an example (an important one in itself, however), and the correction given makes my point all the stronger. It shows how little fitted a ration of clear oat straw would be for nourishing animals. If the nutritive ratio of oat straw is somewhere near 1 to 28 or 30, we will see that we have to add considerable flesh-forming substances, in bran and oil-meal, etc., to make a "balanced" ration. Practically, it makes only a slight difference whether that ratio is 1 to 12 or 1 to 28. There is an excess of fat and heat producing substance in oat straw, and this excess must be balanced by a material addition of flesh-forming substances. The ration which I gave for an animal weighing about eight hundred pounds, namely, twenty pounds of oat straw, five pounds of wheat-bran and two or three pounds of oil-meal, per day, I think is not far out of the way. And yet if you want to know exactly how much to feed, ask your cows and other stock.

T. GREINER.



A. J. HARPER PHOTO.

A DAIRY FARM, NORTH OF TALLAHASSEE, LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

GOVERNMENT AID TO AGRICULTURE.—It is the theory of the supporters of our national protective tariff policy that wherever the farmer cannot receive direct benefit he can obtain indirect benefit. The claim is that while an import duty upon the articles farmers produce in excess of the needs of the country cannot affect the price of those articles, yet the policy tends to build up a home market, and a home market is always a safe one. It is not my purpose to discuss this claim, but to present some of the views of the author of the "Lubin Proposition" in regard to it, and then to express some personal views of the proposition that a bounty be paid by this government upon all staple products exported from this country. For a concise statement of Mr. Lubin's views I am indebted to an address delivered by Hon. F. A. Derthick before our central institute at Columbus.

MR. LUBIN'S VIEWS.—Mr. Lubin declares that the time has come when this nation must be all free trade or all protection, and he thinks the policy should be protective, as the American people will not consent that the rewards of labor here shall sink to the world's level of prices for labor. He holds, however, that while all values here except staple farm products are adjusted to the United States level of protected prices, the staple farm products do not enjoy this closed or protected market, but are sold in an open market, or at the world's level of prices. Friends of agriculture have been invited to suggest some plan by which agricultural staples could be protected, but have never been able to offer a method that bore any considerable fruit, because we do not import wheat and corn and meat and other staples in any quantity, but do have these articles for export, and the price is set in the markets of the world.

THE HOME MARKET.—Mr. Lubin declares that there is no force or merit in the argument that protected industries bring an army of employees to our doors, thus furnishing a home market for our agricultural products that lets the farmer share in the benefits of protection. He asserts that the price of wheat in the United States is regulated by the price of wheat in Liverpool, England, less the cost of transportation to Liverpool. The consumer at the farmer's door pays no more for a bushel of wheat than the farmer would receive if he sold his wheat to an exporter who bases prices upon Liverpool prices. Mr. Lubin holds that agricultural depression in the United States has come to stay as long as the present unequal protective system continues. What, then, is the remedy? "A government export bounty on staple agricultural products, which," says Mr. Lubin, "will restore the equilibrium between agriculture and other industries in the United States."

THE EFFECT OF A BOUNTY.—With these gleanings from Mr. Derthick's address, let the reader consider carefully this statement of Mr. Lubin: "Should the government offer a bounty of five cents a bushel on all wheat exported, it would not only add that amount to the price of all exported wheat, but would immediately advance the price five cents per bushel on the entire crop produced in this country. This being true, our fellow-citizens in other vocations in buying wheat would be compelled to pay the additional five cents per bushel, and should be willing to pay it, that the farmer may share in the benefits of a protective tariff. Note the result to agriculture. In 1892 the total wheat crop in the United States was, in round numbers, 600,000,000 of bushels. Of this amount 200,000,000 were exported, leaving 400,000,000 for home consumption. A government bounty of ten cents per bushel would have cost the government \$20,000,000, while the farmers would have realized ten cents a bushel more on the entire crop, or \$60,000,000, \$40,000,000 of which would have been paid by our fellow-citizens in industries enjoying the benefits of a protective tariff. No farmer would sell his wheat to either foreign or domestic buyer unless he received the additional ten cents per bushel. The same results would follow with other staple products."

SOME COMMENTS UPON LUBINISM.—Any plan for promoting the prosperity of agriculture deserves candid consideration. While I am not ready to condemn this plan as impracticable, yet it is difficult to see how the people of this country can increase their prosperity by the even swapping of dollars. If the farmer pay the manufacturer five dollars out of his own pocket in the form of a bonus, made possible by a protective tariff, and then require the manufacturer (and his employees) to pay him five dollars in the form of a bonus on wheat, what does this exchange profit either party? Moreover, bounties, like protective duties, tend to stimulate production. The justice of protective tariffs rests upon this fact. It is reasonable to suppose that a bounty on wheat would stimulate production, and tend to depress prices still more in the world's markets. A temporary benefit to agriculture in the United States might follow the grant of a bounty, but it is not clear that the final result would not be harmful.

WHO PAYS THE MONEY?—Mr. Lubin figures that a bounty of ten cents per bushel on the 1893 wheat crop would have brought the farmers \$60,000,000 more than it did bring them. Is this correct? Of the 400,000,000 bushels consumed at home, two thirds never left the farms. Two fifths of our consumers are farmers. A large quantity was used for seed. Some wheat was fed on the farm. An advance in price of the wheat eaten in farmers' homes, the wheat used for seed, and the wheat fed, would bring no money into the farmers' pockets. Of the bounty paid by the government on the 200,000,000 of bushels exported—the \$20,000,000 thus received—the farmers would have to furnish about one half in indirect taxation necessary to raise the sum paid out in the form of bounties.

Much may be said on both sides, and I leave the matter for the consideration of my readers. DAVID.

TOBACCO CULTURE IN BROWN COUNTY, OHIO.

Brown county is one of the Ohio river counties, and lies about midway between the Little Miami and the Scioto rivers. It is in the heart of the once famous White Burley tobacco district of southern Ohio. The southern part of the county is rough and hilly, and the soil is of limestone formation with a clay subsoil, and in its original state was especially adapted to the production of tobacco of a very fine quality.

Although the early settlers of the county raised enough of the weed for their own use, we are not informed when they commenced raising it for market, but it was sometime previous to the year 1840, for in that year 63,260 pounds were raised and sold. The tobacco at this time was hauled to the river towns, packed into hogsheads, and, like hay, pork and other products, was sent to New Orleans on board flatboats.

The varieties raised at that time and for several years following were the Red Burley, Twist-hud and the Little Burley. The Red Burley and Twist-hud varieties were very coarse and heavy, leathery in texture, and of a dark red color. The Little Burley was a smaller variety and of a finer fiber and quality.

Some very heavy yields were reported of the Red Burley variety—from 2,000 to 3,000 pounds and over to the measured acre; but these were exceptions. The average yield, perhaps, did not exceed 1,200 or 1,500 pounds per acre.

The prices in those times were from three to five cents per pound, according to the quality of the tobacco, but the trash could not be sold at any price. The income from an acre of tobacco was from \$45 to \$75.

The industry increased, and in 1850 there were 1,279,510 pounds produced; in 1880 the number of pounds produced amounted to 4,156,921, and there was a corresponding increase for the next ten years.

The White Burley variety was introduced about the time of the civil war. It originated, it is said, on White Oak creek, near Higginsport. A grower noticed in his plant-beds some plants of a distinct and different color. The plants were allowed to mature and ripen their seed, which was saved. The plants produced from this seed were not so large and coarse as the old varieties. It was fine-fibered and of very excellent quality, and also cured a beauti-

ful, bright color, and soon became famous for its superior qualities, and it was very highly prized for the manufacture of chewing tobacco, both fine-cut and plug.

The seed of the White Burley variety gradually spread over the tobacco districts of Ohio and Kentucky, and as it was the most desirable, it commanded the highest prices in the Cincinnati markets.

For more than thirty years past White Burley tobacco growing has been the most important, and until recent years the most profitable industry of Brown county. During the civil war and for several years after the crop was very profitable, commanding prices ranging from ten to twenty cents, and in some exceptional cases, even thirty cents per pound. Good tobacco lands also commanded high prices—from \$60 to \$100 and more per acre.

The tobacco lands were repeatedly planted to the crop, until the proper elements necessary for the production of the crop which it originally contained were exhausted. For several years past commercial fertilizers have been used, and hundreds of dollars are expended each year for them.

The crop does not find the ready sale which formerly characterized the Brown county tobacco, for several reasons: An overproduction of the White Burley variety; tobacco grown on old land with commercial fertilizer does not produce the fine quality of tobacco which the new, fresh land formerly did. But the tobacco grown on new lands still commands a fair price, and as a result the few remaining acres of timber are being rapidly cut away and converted into tobacco-patches.

Small fortunes have been made and lost in the tobacco traffic. Many well-to-do farmers with a desire to make money rapidly have engaged in the purchase of tobacco, risking all in the uncertain speculation. Reverses came, and in many cases their farms have passed into other hands, or are heavily mortgaged, with no flattering prospect of it being paid off.

J. F. B.

THE FUTURE FOR SHEEP.

Sheepmen have been sorely perplexed. The prices of sheep and wool have been discouraging. But have not all industries had their dark seasons? Indeed, is not the outlook very dark in some of them yet? The advent of the bicycle into general use and the introduction of electric cars have so demoralized the horse market that it no longer pays to grow horses, except the best. The growth and combination of the large packing-houses have crowded out the smaller concerns, and beef and pork prices in Ohio have been injured thereby. The bonanza farmers of the Northwest can grow wheat at comparatively low prices, and eastern farmers can scarcely hope to compete with them, though a thousand or fifteen hundred miles nearer the sea-board. Oleomargarine is accepted by an increasing number as a substitute for butter, and the dairyman must either make use of the very best dairy appliances, make a superior article, and sell to a special class of customers, or he will lose money in his business.

But the sheepmen are to-day face to face with adversity, we are told. It scarcely appears so to me. The decrease of over five million in the number of sheep in the country is already beginning to be noticeable. There is a constantly growing demand for mutton, and this demand is sure to grow as people learn the superiority of mutton over other meat foods. Mutton is fifteen per cent more nutritious than beef or poultry, twenty-five per cent more than pork or veal, and fifty per cent more than fish. There is a great demand for early lambs, and this feature of the industry has been profitable right along. Where farmers fit themselves up with warm stables, lambs may be cared for as early as desired, and in five months go on the market at one hundred pounds.

The effort now being made to have all shoddy goods, or goods containing shoddy, sold for what they are, will, if successful, enhance the price of wool. This movement was inaugurated by our worthy

friend Mr. H. P. Miller, himself a grower and fancier of good sheep, and a man who seeks the general welfare of the agricultural community. In order to secure the desired object, it has been thought best to have all goods manufactured of wool to bear a guarantee that such goods have been made from "full-length fiber wool," while goods not bearing this guarantee will be construed to have more or less shoddy in their make-up.

This plan is considered preferable to asking the manufacturers to brand their goods "shoddy," for in that case they would find some means of evading the law. Very probably the shoddy men would do as the oleomargarine men did when they took a Jersey cow for a trade-mark; the shoddy men would not fail to select a Southdown sheep or some other favorite breed as a trade-mark, by which means many would be led to believe they were buying "all-woolen" goods.

A merchant has no more right to sell a suit of shoddy as all-woolen goods than a farmer has to mix ninety per cent of straw with ten per cent of timothy and call it choice hay. Things should be sold for what they really are; and if men are not honest enough to do this on their own accord, the law should come to their assistance. If shoddy goods were sold for what they really are, few people would care to buy. A suit of shoddy will scarcely last six months. A woolen suit, costing perhaps twenty-five per cent more, would last, under the same conditions, perhaps two years.

If justice is done in this matter, the wool market will be considerably improved.

Shady Nook.

JOHN L. SHAWVER.

THE RAISING OF PEANUTS.

The *Manufacturers' Record*, of Baltimore, has frequently pointed out the possibility of developing the peanut-oil business in the South, and Mr. Edward Atkinson, in a recent article in that paper, predicted that "not many years hence the development of this industry would surpass the cotton-seed-oil business." The same paper stated in a recent issue that "a company had been organized in Norfolk, Virginia, to build a peanut-oil mill in that city, and that it expected to turn out four hundred gallons of oil a day."

It has been demonstrated beyond all question or doubt that there is no section of the whole South where the soil is better adapted to the raising of peanuts than in some portions of Wakulla and Leon Counties, in Western Florida.

The lands can be purchased there very cheaply, the facilities for transportation, both deep water and by railroad, are exceedingly good, and if the prediction of these eminent authorities can be relied upon, there is no agricultural product to which a young farmer could more profitably turn his attention than the raising of this well-known product.

It may safely be stated that there is scarcely a single product of the soil that can be produced with so little trouble and expense as this simple article; and if parties who are desirous of purchasing land and cultivating the soil for subsistence and profit will give a little common-sense attention to what is now being written and said on that subject, they may be able to embark in a business requiring very little capital, and which will have a very profitable outcome.

Pure

Blood means sound health. With pure, rich, healthy blood, the stomach and digestive organs will be vigorous, and there will be no dyspepsia. Rheumatism and neuralgia will be unknown. Scrofula and salt rheum will disappear. Your nerves will be strong, your sleep sound, sweet and refreshing. Hood's Sarsaparilla makes pure blood. That is why it cures so many diseases. That is why thousands take it to cure disease, retain good health. Remember

Hood's

Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.

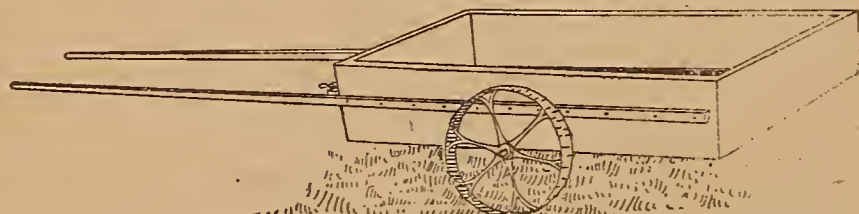
Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

CELERY GROWING.—Recently I have had a number of inquiries about the new way of growing celery. Several of my friends seem to have a notion to try this on a one-acre scale. I confess that I would be a little afraid of going in so heavy, unless I were sure of having just the right kind of land, and plenty of manure, and all the necessary facilities. I have had good success in some cases, and then again made a failure of the undertaking when almost everything seemed favorable. Yet when the land is rich from the start, and filled with good old manure, and water can be given in generous quantities, we may be reasonably sure of being able to produce a tall and heavy growth. When we succeed in this, of course, we have gained our point. The great mass of foliage made by plants that stand only ten by five inches apart requires large quantities of water. When you have that success is possible; when water in abundance is not readily available at all times, the planting of celery on this plan of close planting, on a large scale, is a very unsafe business.

CELERY VARIETIES.—For the early or summer crop I have not yet found a better variety than White Plume. Golden Self-blanching is an elegant thing, and satisfactory for the skillful amateur, or for a fancy market, but it does not make the strong, sturdy growth of the White Plume. The latter is an all-round, reliable, early-market sort. Seed should be sown at once in flats, and the young seedlings promptly pricked out in other flats or in a cold-frame. For late celery, I still prefer Giant Pascal to any other sort I know of.

LETTUCE AND RADISHES IN FRAMES.—To those among my rural friends who have never tried to grow their own home supply of lettuce and radishes under glass during early spring, let me say that these crops can be produced in any ordinary glass-covered frame almost as easily as weeds, and surely in greater perfection than in open ground later on. Lettuce and radishes under glass are especially crisp and sweet and tender, and far more enjoyable than the ordinary stuff grown outdoors. Of course, the soil should be very rich. Old, well-rotted manure, muck and sand, about an equal bulk of each,



HOME-MADE GRAPE AND BERRY CART.

with a little clay loam, will give a mixture that is just about right for this purpose. What we want is to grow the lettuce and radishes just as quickly as possible. In March and April we usually have a good deal of sunshine. This, with the rich bed soil, free watering and the glass protection, should bring a crop of radishes or lettuce in not more than from five to six weeks. My favorite among forcing-lettuces is Buist's White Perfection. Landreth's Hothouse lettuce is probably the same thing. It makes fine, crisp and solid heads. Color is a light, yellowish green, very delicate. Of radishes, any of the first-early, turnip-rooted ones, like Early Carbine Forcing, Early Frame, etc., may be used.

MELONS IN MARKET.—While at the meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society in Rochester, the other day, I met Mr. Fowler, editor of the old *Orange County* (now *New York Farmer*). He complained that he had seldom been able to find a really good melon in the open market. Five out of every six melons, he said, which he had purchased in the New York markets were too poor to be eaten. Then I made his mouth water by referring to the fine Emerald Gems which I grow in such abundance in my garden every year, and advised him to grow his own melons, and plant nothing but the Emerald Gem. He said he did not have room enough in his garden, and had

to buy his melons. But if he could find really good ones in the market, and especially Gems, he would buy many times the quantity that he does now. The Emerald Gem can be planted close. For myself, I think it absolutely indispensable, even in a small home garden. But surely there is a demand, or "long-felt want," which enterprising gardeners should fill, and might fill, with profit to themselves. If some one will grow nice Emerald Gem melons, and put them up in baskets, so labeled that purchasers can recognize them again, and come back for more, knowing that they will get the same quality every time, he can work up a big trade.

THE POTATO FUTURE.—Fortunately, it is not often that excessive planting and abnormally large yields happen to occur together in the same year. Potatoes have always been subject to great and often sudden fluctuations in the market. I shall not hesitate to plant as largely as ever next year. What we miss one year we may make the next. Potatoes have rarely failed to pay us, and undoubtedly they will continue to pay, one year with another. We lose nothing on them this year, even at these low prices.

A LESSON FOR SPECIALISTS.—This year's potato experience has a special lesson for crop specialists. An old saying is that one should not put all his eggs into one basket. This contains some truth. When a person cannot afford to lose a crop, and would be crippled or ruined by a complete failure of a specialty, he better put his reliance on several. The one-specialty business is too risky for him. On the other hand, a person who can afford to take the average big returns in one year, and little or nothing the next, is all right when growing such a good average payer as potatoes. A few days ago I read of a certain farmer who makes potatoes his specialty, but also has a few acres in raspberries. While he does not expect much money from his potato crop this year, he had a nice little sum of money from his berries, and he feels all right, and is ready for another trial next year.

T. GREINER.

HOME-MADE GRAPE AND BERRY CART.

A very handy cart for use in vineyards and berry-fields is easily constructed from the wheels and shaft of a worn-out mowing-machine, with the simple addition of a box of proper size and thills, which any one handy with tools can easily construct.

The general form and arrangement is shown in the sketch.

The box should be six feet in length, at least one foot in height, and rather wide—the width, of course, depending upon the length of the axle. Thills can be of any straight, strong material, and to bring the outer ends nearer together, a two-inch block can be placed between them and the box where they meet at the back end. A strip of board, to which the swingletree is attached, is connected with both thills at the front end of box.

This is a very handy one-horse rig for hauling fertilizer or other material in the vineyard or berry-field; also is used in transporting the fruit from field to packing-house or evaporator, and for many other purposes about the place. It costs but little, for if you do not have the wheels and shaft, you can obtain them of some farmer at the price of old iron.

During winter is a good time to fit up such a rig, and when once made you will put it to many uses not now thought of.

L. D. SNOOK.

CATALOGUES.

In our advertising columns will be found the advertisements of nurserymen, seedsmen and florists. Their catalogues can be obtained free on application. Do not fail to obtain a number of them. Some of them are excellent manuals on garden, fruit and flower culture.

HER FORTUNE.

AN OHIO GIRL TELLS HOW SHE FOUND IT—OVERHEARD IN THE CARS.

Some women, says the *Daily Commercial*, have found a fortune in their faces, while others have found a fortune in their figures. But more interesting and profitable than the experiences of these, is that of the Ohio girl who actually found a fortune in her ear.

This young lady has been a resident of the Buckeye State for fifteen years. Her present home is in Cincinnati, where she ranks as one of the most successful musicians and voice trainers in the entire west. Her personal attractiveness and unusually vivacious temperament have, combined with her accomplishments, gained for her an enviable social position. To look at her bright, rosy, girlish face one would suppose that her life had been one of perpetual sunshine, and that she had never



TELLING THE REPORTER ABOUT HER FORTUNE.

known a moment's unhappiness. No one would for an instant surmise that this same girl had for nearly two years been the victim of a tormentor that came near blasting her life and robbing her of her reason. Her life presents one of those cases where present appearances fail to give an insight into past experiences.

It was during an entertainment at the College of Music in which she took part, that she contracted what she then regarded as a slight cold. "I took no notice of it at first," said the young lady recently, to a *Commercial* reporter, "but in about a week small red spots appeared on my face, and so disfigured me that I lost my pupils, one by one. Their mothers, fearing contagion, did not want them to come in contact with me. A nervous, racking cough robbed me of sleep and appetite, and each of four different physicians who were called in gave a different opinion as to what my trouble was. Eczema, blood poisoning, lung trouble and a complication of disorders were among the results of their diagnoses. My suffering was intense and I began wasting away to a mere shadow. Dreading the solicitude and sympathy which I could plainly read on the faces of my friends, I secretly changed my boarding place. When they found my new address I decided, by the advice of two physicians, to go to a private Sanitarium in Indiana. My journey in the cars," continued the young lady, "was a terrible ordeal, for, aside from my physical suffering, I saw that, although I wore a veil, the passengers avoided the seats near me, and between my coughing spells I could not but hear that they talked about my hopeless condition and disfigured face."

"Besides the horrible skin disease, she's got consumption and it's going to kill her, poor thing. It almost killed my sister," remarked a lady, in an audible whisper, to her companion across the aisle.

"I shuddered as I thus heard my doom pronounced by careless lips, and didn't have enough hope left to pay more than passing notice to the name of the discovery which the lady said had saved her sister's life. I had met with so many disappointments that I almost courted death, and it was a relief to get within the sheltering walls of the Sanitarium, and hear the encouraging words of the proprietor and his attendants."

"But all my hope vanished when, after eight weeks' treatment, I was asked for the addresses of my relatives and friends. I knew then that these doctors also considered my case hopeless. The mental agony I endured brought my journey on the cars back to me with vivid distinctness, and suddenly the name of the 'Discovery' which the talkative passenger mentioned as having saved her sister's life, began ringing in my ears. Somehow I could not drive it from my mind, and by an almost superhuman impulse I was impelled to secretly send a note for a bottle of it, which I took according to directions. The

first few days it had no apparent effect on my case, except it relieved my cough somewhat and the soreness on my lungs. The second bottle gave me more strength, and the eruption on my skin began to disappear. I sent out for three more bottles, and by the time I had taken them I felt almost well. I knew it was against the rules of the Institution for patients to take any medicines except those prescribed there, and I called the chief physician to my room, showed him that I had left his own medicine untouched for weeks, and told him that I had broken the rules and taken Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, which saved my life after five different doctors had failed. My cure is a matter of record, and I cheerfully consent to its publication as a token of gratitude to Dr. Pierce and his wonderful 'Discovery,' and in order that other women may be rescued from agonizing suffering and untimely death. I have resumed giving music lessons, and as you can see with your own eyes," added the young lady to the reporter, "my skin is smooth and clear, and my health is perfect. If I had not heard those two young women discussing my case in the cars, I would not be here to-day, telling you of my wonderful recovery. My hearing that conversation proved a fortune to me."

The Law of Nature is, Dr. Pierce believes, for people to be healthy. When they are sick, Nature helps to cure them. Nature's law is the guide for curing sick people. There is no way but Nature's way. What the doctors call many different diseases Nature cures in one way; by nourishing the whole body with good, pure, rich, red blood. That is Nature's way of curing scrofula, erysipelas, kidney and "liver complaint," consumption and every form of eruptive and wasting disease.

When you want to help Nature with medicine the medicine must work the same way as Nature works, then it has the laws of Nature on its side to make it powerful. That is the secret of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery's wonderful cures. It assists Nature according to her own laws; it is on Nature's side and Nature helps it; it imparts new power to the nutritive and blood making organs to create a large quantity of fresh, red, healthy blood which drives every germ of disease out of the system and builds up strong, healthy tissues and solid flesh. The "Discovery" completely clears away every form of blood disease from the system; it even cures consumption. It is the only true radical cure for that disease; facts and testimony to prove it.

Mrs. James Gatliff, of 77 Mary St., Hamilton, Ont., Can., writes: "I would like to tell the whole world what your 'Golden Medical Discovery' has done for me. The doctor, who is considered an expert on lung troubles, told me I had consumption. He said both my lungs were diseased and I could not live long. I felt down-hearted for I have dear little children to live for. I just went to him to get his opinion. I am glad I did for now I know what your medicine will do. When I started on the second bottle I was better in every way and was able to take a walk on every fine day. I enjoyed my sleep, my appetite was good, and by the time I had finished the second bottle I began to feel like a new woman. I still had a cough, so I got a third bottle, and by the time it was half gone I was completely cured."

When Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., published the first edition of his work, *The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser*, he announced that after 680,000 copies had been sold at the regular price, \$1.50 per copy, the profit on which would repay him for the great amount of labor and money expended in producing it, he would distribute the next half million free. As this number of copies has already been sold, he is now distributing, absolutely free, 500,000 copies of this most complete, interesting and valuable common sense medical work ever published—the recipient only being required to mail to him, at the above address, this little coupon number with twenty-one (21) cents in one-cent stamps to pay for postage and packing only, and the book will be sent by mail. It is a veritable medical library, complete in one volume. It contains over 1000 pages and more than 300 illustrations. The *Free Edition* is precisely the same as that heretofore sold at \$1.50, except only that the books are bound in strong manilla paper covers instead of cloth. If French cloth-covered, embossed and gold stamped covers are desired, send 10 cents extra—31 cents in all, to cover only the postage and the extra cost of that more durable and beautiful style of binding. Send now before all are given away. They are going off rapidly.

COUPON
No. 239

Our Farm.

Orchard and Small Fruits.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

ROOT-PRUNING TREES WHEN SET OUT.

Fig. 1 (root-pruned when set) and Fig. 2 (root-pruned at end of first year) herewith show a form of root-pruning which Mr. H. M. Stringfellow, of Texas, is advocating through the agricultural press. His method, in his words, is as follows: "Hold the tree-top down and cut all roots back to about an inch, more or less, sloping the cuts so that when set the cut surface will face down. The strong roots strike perpendicularly to the plane, or surface, of the cut. This final pruning should be done shortly before planting, so as to present a fresh surface for the callous to form. If trees are to be kept some time or shipped, leave about two inches of roots, the planter to cut back when the tree is set. About a

favorable conditions. This system of short pruning of the roots of trees is not a new question, for I can remember when working in a nursery in Massachusetts some fifteen years ago of hearing the same method discussed, under the title of "Setting Trees with a Crow-bar."

In the extreme northern states the best planters set their trees deep in the ground, so as to get roots to grow from the scions, for they find that the trees thus rooted are hardier than those that have not such roots. Fig. 3 shows how this subject is regarded in that section, and is from "Amateur Fruit Growing." In regard to the claim that closely pruned trees produce more tap-roots than those having more roots, it is well known by nurserymen that the scion influences this matter to a great extent, and that some varieties will have many more tap-roots than others in the same situation; but the soil also has much to do with this subject. It is also true that seedlings grown without ever being disturbed are hardier than the same trees after being transplanted, and such trees have very deep tap-roots. If the method advocated by Mr. Stringfellow

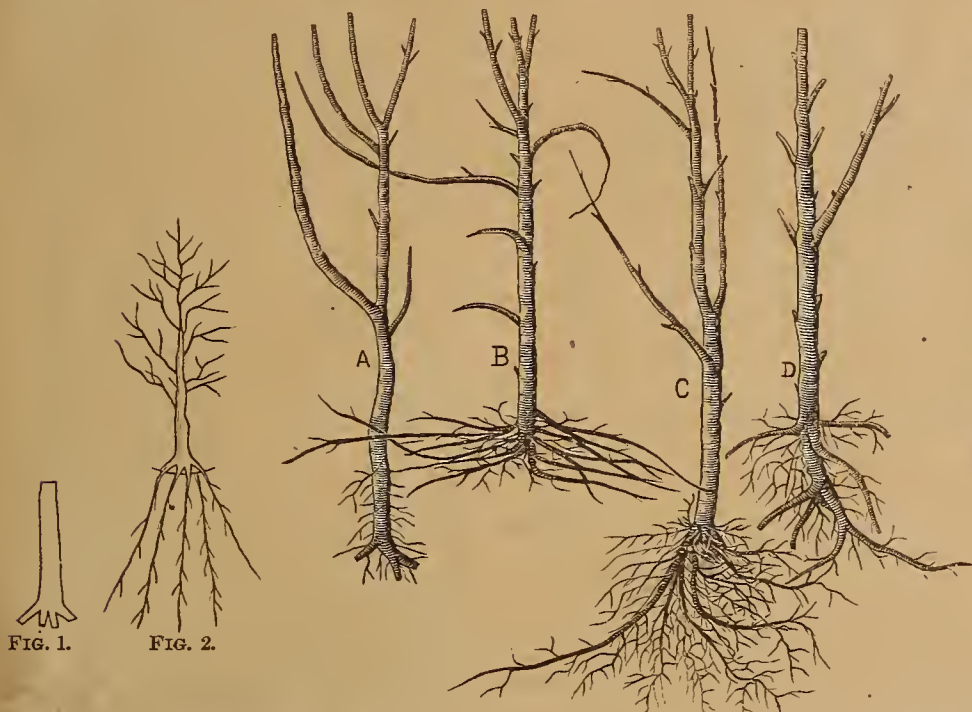


FIG. 3.—(A) Tree with very poor roots, which were injured by being cut off too short in digging. A common form. (B) A well-rooted tree, with all the roots coming from the scion. The original root in which the scion was set has been broken off. An uncommon form. (C) A well-rooted tree, with fibrous roots. Such roots grow well if carefully spread out when planted. An uncommon form. (D) A well-rooted tree, properly dug, leaving some roots from the scion. A common form.

foot of top should be left; more or less makes no great difference. If well staked, three or four feet may be left, but it is best to cut back close to avoid staking and secure a straight new stem. Let all shoots grow until a foot or so long, when the best should be left and all others rubbed off."

The advantages claimed for this treatment are as follows: A great saving of labor in digging the trees, a saving in labor and material in handling and packing the trees in the nursery, a saving in transportation charges, a saving of labor in setting out; but above all, he claims that such trees grow as well as those having long roots, and they produce more deep tap-roots.

He also quotes Mr. J. H. H. Hale, the well-known orchardist, to the effect that in a recent planting of an orchard of 100,000 peach-trees at Fort Valley, Ga., he had gotten good results from following this method, losing not more than one half of one per cent of his original planting. But what is claimed in regard to peach-trees in Georgia will not necessarily apply to trees planted in northern states. I remember meeting a gentleman from Georgia at a nurserymen's association meeting a few years ago, who said that one year he stuck his peas with the prunings from peach-trees, and that some of them rooted and bore a few peaches the same year. This simply shows the remarkable ease with which trees produce roots in that climate.

It is also true that young trees will stand severe root-pruning, while larger trees will fail when so treated. It is true, too, that grape-vines, strawberries and other plants with a large amount of roots do best when they are somewhat shortened in, but this is not because they have too many roots for the plant, but for the reason that we have not the time to plant all the roots carefully, and consequently they crowd one another. I am of the opinion that in any section we need all the roots we can get in moving trees, and if we could have our trees all grown in pots, so as to save all the roots, there would be far less loss in transplanting than there is to-day. But the fact remains that trees with very poor roots will often grow and do well under

would increase the number of tap-roots, it would certainly be an advantage, but I fear his drawing is rather overdrawn, and illustrates too much.

TALLAHASSEE COUNTRY SIXTY YEARS AGO.

A well-known correspondent, in a recent letter, says:

"As far back as 1823, one of the American visitors to the then newly acquired domain of Florida visited Tallahassee and Leon County, and reported as follows: 'In appearance it is entirely unlike any other part of the United States near the seaboard. Instead of being a plain of unvaried surface, it resembles the highlands about the falls of the rivers of the Atlantic states, and is beautifully diversified by hill and dale, threaded by limpid streams, and rendered picturesque by the number of lakes, and forests of oak that clothe the sides of the hills down to their very margin. The natural open groves of oak, hickory, beech and magnolia surpass in magnificence the proudest parks of English nobility. The soil of these uplands bears a strong resemblance to the best of Prince George County, Maryland.'"

The above represents the impression made upon one of the original visitors to the Tallahassee country more than half a century ago.

What was true then is doubly true now, for since those days the soil has been cultivated, the country has been more or less developed, and to-day it presents better opportunities and greater advantages for general farming than any other section of the South.

Land is cheap, transportation facilities good, and the soil has special aptitudes for crops like tobacco, sugar-cane and garden truck that give it an advantage over almost all other sections. We specially recommend those who are seeking new homes to investigate for themselves, for when cheap lands, fertile soil, good transportation and good educational facilities are all combined with that of delightful climate, it would seem as if the combination presented all the attractions and the advantages that the ordinary home-seeker could ask.

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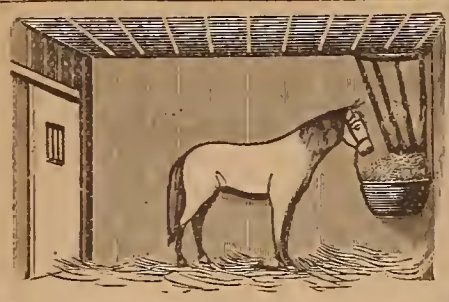
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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

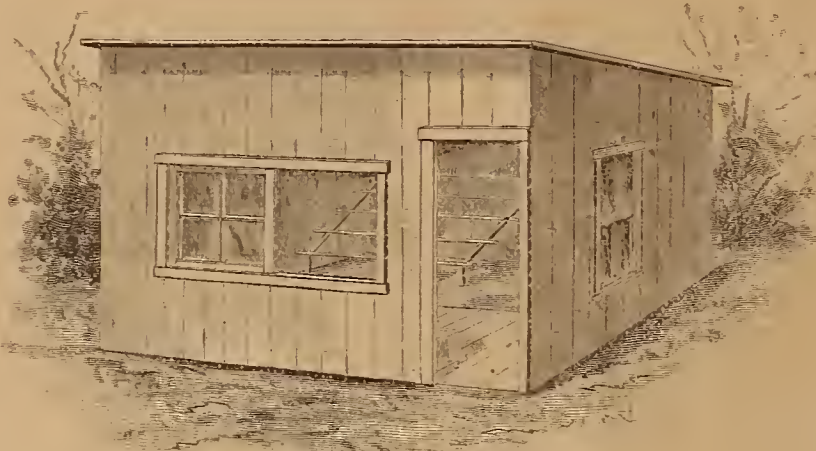
FROSTED COMBS PREVENT LAYING.

BIRDS with very large combs frequently fail to lay in winter because their combs become frosted, the result being that inflammation occurs, the pain is severe, and the fowl is useless. In a cold climate the quarters must be arranged so as to protect against frosted combs. It is usually at night, when the birds are on the roost, that the cold winds nip the combs, due to the supposition that "perfect ventilation" must be given. The hen that is frosted on the comb will not lay, and the male that is so unfortunate as to be in such a predicament will be useless. They will then be in the same plight as a man with a member of his

will always manage to get in, and warmth cannot remain as long as cold drafts are permitted. Unless a poultry-house is lathed and plastered, and every crack caulked, it is impossible to keep the cold air out; but there are many which have ample ventilation from the top or elsewhere, which has the effect of causing roup and inviting diseases due to cold and exposure. As poultry-houses are ordinarily constructed, the object should be to avoid ventilation, as there will be more difficulty in keeping fresh air out than getting it in.

CUT CORN FODDER FOR POULTRY.

One of the cheapest foods, but which is seldom used for poultry, is corn fodder—not the stalks, but the leaves. Those who have used ensilage for cows in winter know that poultry will be on hand when it is being fed, and will endeavor to secure a share. Those who have no ensilage will find that by cutting up the blades of fodder sufficiently fine and pouring boiling water over the cut food, not only the hens,

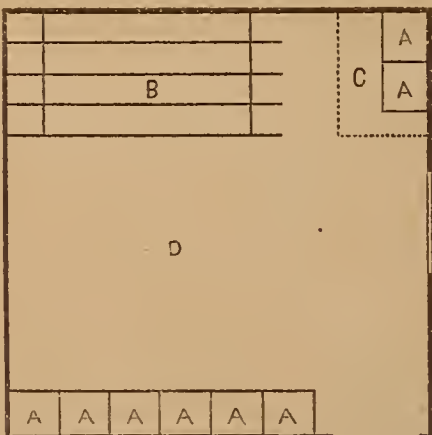


CHEAP POULTRY-HOUSE.

body frozen. The comb gradually heals by sloughing off, though sometimes the unfortunate bird dies. Some breeds have very tall combs, and they lay a great many eggs in the spring, summer and fall; but the hens that are the most secure from frosted combs are such breeds as the Light Brahma, which has a small pea-comb, though it may lack in some other respects. But no breed is proof against cold drafts, whether from a top ventilator, a crack in the wall, or a nail-hole. Eggs cannot be obtained unless the poultry-house is warm and comfortable.

A CHEAP POULTRY-HOUSE.

The design given is from Mr. Robert Campbell, Kansas. The house should be about 10x10 feet, with flat roof, covered with tarred paper, or may be shingled if roof is given more pitch. The interior arrangement is shown in the ground plan, AA being the nests; B, the roosts; C, an



GROUND PLAN OF POULTRY-HOUSE.

apartment for sitting hens; and D, the scratching-place. The windows are arranged to afford plenty of light.

COLD POULTRY-HOUSES.

It is only when cold weather appears that the farmer finds he has neglected the most important matter connected with poultry-raising, which is the protection of the hens against the cold. Hundreds of dollars have been expended in the building of poultry-houses, which, when finished, were supposed to be complete, because they were "well ventilated;" but the "ventilation" was the cause of failure, because it simply allowed cold drafts of air to come in on the poultry. It has long been a problem why so many poultrymen are desirous of giving plenty of fresh air after taking pains to keep it out. During the severe cold period of winter the cold air

HOW TO KEEP EGGS.

When eggs are placed in an incubator, those that contain no germs of chicks, although kept at a temperature of 103 degrees for two weeks, will be nearly as good in appearance as when they were placed in the incubator. When eggs are to be kept for higher prices, therefore, remove the males, and use only eggs from hens not with males. That is the great secret of keeping eggs. Put them in a cool place, and turn them half over twice a week. They may be in boxes or on racks, or arranged in any manner that permits of turning them easily. They should be good and nice-looking until Christmas, if kept sufficiently cool—say about 60 degrees.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Vertigo.—Mrs. M. E. W., Berrydale, Florida, writes: "I have had a great deal of trouble with my chickens having blind staggers. They are otherwise hearty and apparently well."

REPLY:—Probably they have been fed too highly and are in a very fat condition. The remedy is to reduce the food, and feed only once a day for a few weeks.

Cholera.—L. M., Monroeville, Pa., writes: "I have a turkey that droops and has all the symptoms of cholera. I would like a remedy."

REPLY:—Cholera is a disease that is too quick in its work to get a remedy from a distance. In fact, there is no known sure cure for cholera, but occasional cures have been effected by adding a teaspoonful of liquid carbolic acid to a half gallon of drinking-water.

Operating an Incubator.—E. S., Wetmore, Kansas, writes: "I have a home-made incubator, and have varied it with more or less moisture. One difficulty is that the chicks die in the shells on the eighteenth day."

REPLY:—The difficulty with hatching is nearly always due to the eggs not being suitable. Avoid opening the drawer frequently, give no moisture until the eighteenth day, then use wet sponges, and do not remove any of the chicks until the hatch is finished.

Ulcers on Liver.—W. J. N., Mercer, Pa., writes: "One of my hens drooped and died. She had been well and fat. Examination of the carcass showed ulcers and sores on the liver, the liver being enlarged, and the blood thick."

REPLY:—The difficulty is one that is very frequent among flocks that are fed often, and especially on grain exclusively. Confinement, lack of exercise and a surfeit of food may be given as the cause. No remedy is available except to change the method of management.

Whooping Cough, Croup and Hoarseness are efficaciously treated by Dr. D. Jayne's Expectoant. It removes difficulty of breathing and oppression in the throat and lungs, promotes the ejection of mucus, and subdues the violence of these complaints at the outset.

Your money

back if you want it—Vacuum Leather Oil. Get a can at a harness- or shoe-store, 25c a half-pint to \$1.25 a gallon; book "How to Take Care of Leather," and swob, both free; use enough to find out; if you don't like it, take the can back and get the whole of your money.

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HERE AGAIN! SHOEMAKER'S POULTRY ALMANAC FOR 1896. Its a beauty, larger and better than ever, nearly 100 pages 8x10 on best book paper. Fully illustrated with finest engravings of special design. A veritable Encyclopedia of Chicken information. Sent post paid for only 15 cents. Address, C. C. SHOEMAKER, Box 56, Freeport, Ill., U. S. A. P. S.—Incubators and Brooders. Hot water, pipe system, the best in the world, a fine 32 page Catalogue free.

New MAMMOTH POULTRY GUIDE FOR 1895 Finest Poultry Book ever published. Contains nearly 100 pages, all printed in colors, showing over 150 new illustrations, gives new plans for most convenient poultry houses, sure remedies and recipes for all diseases, and how to make poultry and gardening pay. Sent post paid for 15 cents. John Bauscher, Jr., box 143 Freeport, Ill.

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THE BEST AND CHEAPEST. OVER 6,000,000 in use. Ask your dealer or write for free sample. Address RECORD MFG. CO., 114 Main St., Conneaut, Ohio, Mrs. Spouts, Butter Falls, Cal., &c.

THOMPSON'S GRASS SEEDER Sows all varieties Clover, Timothy, Alfalfa, Red Top, Flax, and ALL KINDS OF GRASS SEEDS. Sows any Quantity Evenly, Accurately

HOPPER for OATS—WHEAT. Send for Catalogue. O. E. THOMPSON & SONS, 12 River St., Ypsilanti, Mich. 20 to 40 Acres a day. In wet, dry and windy weather. Weight, 30 lbs.

This Plow is "Universally" regarded the lightest draft plow in the world.



Every farmer should see this plow do its work. MADE STEEL or CHILLED for all uses and in all styles. Ask your dealer for it. If he does not have it, send to us direct; or at least ask us for our catalogue, telling you all about it.

UNIVERSAL PLOW CO., Wooster, Ohio.

OUR RIDING AND WALKING WHEEL SPRING-TOOTH HARROW

A wonderful improvement. The wheels carry the frame high above the ground, causing it to be the lightest draft Harrow in the world. Ratchet tooth holder: 15 to 19 inches can be worn off the tooth. A golden opportunity for every dealer in the country. Write for prices in time. We also manufacture Circular Saw Mills, Cultivators, Grain Drills, Engines, and all kinds of Agricultural Implements. Sold by all reliable dealers. Don't be deceived. Insist upon having our goods. Agents wanted. Catalogue free. HENCH & DROMCOLD, YORK, PA.

Our Fireside.

IF WE HAD BUT A DAY.

We should fill the hours with the sweetest things,
If we had but a day,
We should drink alone at the purest springs
In our upward way;
We should love with a lifetime's love in an hour,
If the hours were few;
We should rest, not for dreams, but for fresher power
To be and do.

We should guide our wayward or wearied wills
By the clearest light;
We should keep our eyes on the heavenly hills
If they lay in sight;
We should trample the proud and the discontent
Beneath our feet;
We should take whatever a good God sent,
With a trust complete.

We should waste no moments in weak regret
If the day were but one,
If what we remember and what we forget
Went out with the sun;
We should be from our clamorous selves set free
To work or to pray,
And to be what the Father would have us be,
If we had but a day.

—Christian at Work.

BEN DALTON'S FARM.

A Story of Rural Life.

BY JOHN R. MUSICK.

Author of "The Columbian Historical Novels,"
"Back to the Old Farm," "Helen Lake-
man," "Orland Hyde," etc., etc.

CHAPTER III.

A LITTLE OUT OF HUMOR.

IT was one of those disagreeable days in early fall. The skies which only a day or two before were clear and bright, and the sun beaming down from them on a bounteous harvest, were now completely obscured by lowering clouds. The rain was falling in a fine, cold mist, and the cattle on the hills were shivering with cold, and seeking the shelter of the woods.

Ben Dalton slept late that morning. His wife had slipped from the bed without awaking him, had made a fire and prepared his breakfast.

"Poor Ben, he came home late last night," the faithful little woman thought. "He was so tired, I will let him sleep, with little Harry."

The baby awoke before its father, and the first that Ben heard was the music of its voice, as it kicked the covers right and left.

"Why, Lizzie, are you up?"

"Yes, dear; breakfast is almost ready."

"Why did you let me sleep so late?"

"You were tired."

He arose. There was a cloud on his face, which his wife observed, but attributed to the loss of sleep and the weariness of the business of the day before. After breakfast, which was dispatched in silence, he went to the window and looked out on the dreary prospect.

"It is going to rain cats and dogs to-day," he declared. "I never saw a worse prospect."

Mrs. Dalton, who was dividing her time in attending to her household duties and watching Harry, who sat on the floor, at last asked:

"Did you see Mr. Woods yesterday?"

"Yes."

His answer was almost snappish, for Ben felt somehow that his wife suspected that he had lost twenty dollars of the money.

That money he knew was partially hers. It had been earned by himself, to be sure, but earned with the distinct understanding that it was the property of those dependent on him. He felt that he had done wrong to go to the race-track, and had done doubly wrong in losing the twenty dollars.

Somehow his conscience did not smite him for having won thirty dollars from some other person; it was only his own losses that seemed to weigh on his mind.

After all, this is a selfish world. We are all liable to feel that we have bitterly wronged, and yet we never stop to consider the wrongs that we may perpetrate on others. Ben was trying hard to excuse himself for having lost the money.

"If the infernal horse had not stumbled," he thought, "I would have had two hundred and eighty dollars instead of only one hundred and eighty."

Then he reasoned that it was his own money; he had earned it, and he had a right to dispose of it as he pleased. But ever within his breast there was a monitor that said:

"Wretch, do not deceive yourself; you know that the money you squandered was stolen from your wife and child."

That accusing voice seemed to madden him, and he at times found himself looking on his wife and child as his actual enemies. He sat morosely in his door, gazing out on the dismal day, and wishing that the weather would clear a little, so that he could go to Neighbor Johnson's and borrow the money he lacked to make up the two hundred dollars.

"Ben," said his wife, after a long silence,

She had cleared away the table, straightened up the little front room, and come in where her husband sat, with the baby in her arms. He started as if he had been struck, and brusquely asked:

"What?"

She gave him a reproving look, and he felt ashamed of himself for having spoken so harshly to her.

"What is it, Lizzie?" he asked, more mildly.

"Do you think we can go back to Pennsylvania this year?"

He felt the influence of Satan again upon him. Why did she ask that question of all others at this time?

"I don't know," he answered.

Ben tried to make his answer soft, but he could not. The loss of twenty dollars, the failure to make the payment was self-reproving, and he felt as if his wife was accusing him of wrongdoing.

"But you have been very prosperous this year," Lizzie put in, feeling very much as if she would cry.

"Oh, I don't know," he answered. "If a farmer with nothing to do is ever so prosperous, he can't make much. I suppose we will make a living."

"But the farm will soon be paid for?"

"I hope so."

"And then I can go back home?"

"Yes, yes; but, Lizzie, don't worry me about it now. I will send you back as soon as I can; but please don't torment the life out of me. Don't you see I am sick?"

"Why, Ben, what is the matter?"

broken in upon, he entertained fears that it would all be spent before he had applied it.

"I will have enough when I sell my late cattle and hogs, with my wheat, to pay off the remainder of the money due on the farm, pay Johnson his twenty dollars, and send Lizzie back to her father's."

His face cleared a little, and he went to the house. He did not venture inside the door, but pausing near the threshold, said:

"Lizzie, I am going over to Mr. Johnson's on a little business."

"Oh, Ben, I am so lonesome!" she answered; "won't you stay at home awhile?"

"I will come back just as soon as I can," he answered; "it is business of the utmost importance. I can't delay, or I would."

"Well, if you must go, of course, I won't object; but, Ben, I am so miserable when you are gone."

"Haven't you got Harry with you?" he asked.

"Yes," and she clung to her baby.

He could see that she had been weeping, and he felt his conscience smite him.

"I won't be gone very long, Lizzie, then I will come back and stay with you all the remainder of the day. But see, the sky is clearing, and the sun will shine after awhile."

"What difference does it make whether the sun shines or not when you are gone?" she sighed.

"Oh, come, now, Lizzie; don't take on that way. You don't think half as much of me as you pretend," he said, half jocularly.

He was much more pleasant now, and kissed his baby and wife and went away, leaving a

"Howdy do, Ben?" said the old gentleman, pleasantly, when he came up to the gate. "Hain't this been a bad mornin'?"

"Very, Mr. Johnson."

"How's all th' folks?"

"All well; I hope you are the same."

"Oh, we're all middlin' like; won't ye come in?"

"I believe I will."

Ben was slow to make his errand known. Mr. Johnson knew that only a few days ago he had two hundred dollars, and that it was his intention to pay it on his farm. Ben was never a close person, and usually talked of his plans and his prospects with his friends. Mr. Johnson led the way to the house, commenting on the prospects and the rain.

"I tell ye, we didn't git it afore we needed it," the farmer said. "The crops are made, but we've been needin' some rain fur fall pasture. A few weeks longer and mine would a-been burnt bodaciously up."

"This shower will help it some."

"Yes, some, but it ain't enough; it ain't nearly enough."

Ben found it very difficult to approach the subject which had induced him to make the visit. He was nearly to the point of it two or three times, when he was side-tracked by some remark of the old farmer.

"By the way, Ben, I heerd ye war at the Columbus races 'tother day," Mr. Johnson remarked.

Ben started and blushed, stammered out something, and after blundering about for a moment like a blind horse suddenly fallen into a stream, said:

"A friend, in fact, an old schoolmate, whom I met on the way, persuaded me to go with him."

"Well, I reckon it's pretty excitin'. I hain't been to a race in thirty years. We used t' hev 'em down in old Kentucky, and they wuz grand, but a feller allers loses more'n he gains by gwine t' 'em. I quit after I lost fifty dollars."

Ben made no response. He did not like to admit that he had been led into betting on the races at all, and after a few moments tried to change the subject; but Mr. Johnson evidently did not, and came back at him with:

"Some one said ye won something that day?"

Ben's confusion was now tenfold. He had always been ranked as one of the moral young men of the country, and had boasted that he was an enemy to all sorts of gambling. But he was not sunk so low in sin as to try to cover up what he had done with a lie. The question was straightforward, and he made a straightforward answer.

"Yes," he said. "I was induced to buy some pools; they don't call it betting."

"It's all th' same thing," Mr. Johnson returned. "It is only whippin' th' devil 'round the stump to evade the law, but it is gamblin' all the same."

"I believe you are right, Mr. Johnson. I never appreciated how wrong it was before, but I do now."

Then the conversation drifted away on other topics, and Ben was fully an hour longer getting at the object of his visit. At last he said:

"I came to you, Mr. Johnson, to borrow twenty dollars. I want to make a payment on my place, and I just lack twenty dollars of having enough."

"Why, I thought ye had enough?"

"I thought I did, but I find that I did not. I only need twenty dollars, and when I sell my cattle I will pay you, with interest."

Mr. Johnson looked very grave for a moment, and then said:

"I hain't got it."

"It would be a great accommodation to me if you could just let me have it for a few weeks."

Mr. Johnson said that he would be pleased to accommodate him, but that he had had several demands on his purse of late, and that it would be impossible to accommodate him.

Ben went away feeling that his neighbor could have accommodated him if he had tried. He was in a fury for several moments, and when he was alone on the road, gave vent to many unlovable expressions.

"He heard of my betting and losing on the races," he said to himself. "He will not lend me the money for fear I shall squander it on horses. Well, let him go; I will have the money and pay off all I owe on my farm without his help."

CHAPTER IV.

THE TRAMP'S WARNING.

"You stayed longer than you said you would," the little wife remarked in a half reproving manner when he came home.

"Well, Lizzie, I can't help it," he answered; "I came away as soon as I could."

"Did you see Mr. Johnson?"

"Yes; but it takes one so everlasting long to talk him into business that I thought I would never get away. He had about fifty old Kentucky stories to tell."

"You did get to talk with him on business?"

"Yes, at last."

"What was the business?" she asked, innocently.

"Oh, Lizzie, you could not understand it if I was to explain. Where is Harry?"

"He is asleep."



"HELLO, MY FINE FELLOW! YOU ARE MERRY TO-DAY."

"I have a headache."

He did not look at her, until he heard a gentle sob, and then he got up and put on his hat, and went out into the rain.

"I can't stand a woman sniveling about me," he declared; "I won't do it, either. The sex is ungrateful. A man may work and slave his life away, and just because he can't do a little more for them they want to make his life miserable. I wish I had remained single."

He went to the barn. A barn is a cheerless place in a rain, but it is preferable to the accusing eyes of an injured wife. He found himself saying he wished she was at home, and would stay there. But Ben was ashamed of himself for even daring to think so.

"Why in thunder did the horse stumble?" he growled. "If he had kept on his feet I would have been a hundred dollars better off."

He sat on the wagon-tongue, and cursed his ill luck. He was certainly the most unfortunate man in the world.

"Why could it not be me make a fortune instead of Jack?"

Then when he came to reflect how fate had been against him, he felt very bitter toward fate. A man in the state of mind that Ben was is not very apt to deal gently with fate, and Ben found himself growing more and more morose. He longed for some one to tell his wrongs to, but there was no one to whom he could tell those wrongs. After all, such wrongs as his had better not be told.

At last the drizzling rain ceased and there was some indication of the sky clearing. He decided to go to Mr. Johnson's to borrow the twenty dollars, so as to make the payment. Now that the two hundred dollars had been

smile on her face, although it shone through a tear.

He walked to Mr. Johnson's house, which was not quite a mile distant. The trees were dripping wet, and the road in places quite muddy, so that he had to exercise some care to avoid the mud-puddles which were to be found at every few yards.

The cows were again moving about through the woods, picking grass here and there, or browsing on the leaves. The woods were filled with an oppressive dampness, and the musty odor of last year's leaves filled the air.

At last a short turn in the road brought him in full view with the home of Mr. Johnson. He saw a pale blue smoke ascending from the tall chimney at the east end of the house.

The old farmer was standing in the front yard, with his trousers rolled up almost to his boot-tops. Mr. Johnson was a Kentuckian by birth, and one of the old school of country gentlemen. He was a small man in size, about sixty years of age. His face was smooth-shaved, and he had the appearance of what he was—a sturdy, old-fashioned gentleman. He was a well-to-do farmer. His farm consisted of some three or four hundred acres of land in one body, with three or four hundred more not many miles distant from the home place. He had an abundance of horses, cattle and sheep. His stock was of the very best, and he was thought to be among the most solid farmers in the whole country.

In addition to having a large farm, well stocked, he was known to have considerable surplus money out at interest. Ben Dalton knew this, and that was one reason he had gone to him to borrow the twenty dollars.

More to avoid those searching glances of his wife than to see his child, he went to the little cradle-bed in which his baby was sleeping. It was a sweet, innocent little face that lay upturned toward him. The dark brown curls had fallen over the little brow, and the chubby cheeks and pouting lips would tempt any fond parent to kiss it.

"He has been well all this summer," said Ben, turning away. "I am glad of that, for babies are nearly always sick the first summer."

"Mama never had any trouble with children when they were teething."

"Oh, yes, Lizzie, mama is always a great nurse; I know that from my own mama."

"Do you know, Ben, that our little Harry is going to cut his teeth soon?"

"Well, let him do it then; the sooner the better is my opinion about it."

The young wife shuddered, and said:

"Don't you remember how Mrs. Long's baby died in convulsions while teething?"

"Yes; but that is no sign that Harry will."

"I don't know, Ben; it wears on my mind all the time. What would I do if our poor little Harry was in those terrible convulsions? Mother can prevent them; she is better than any doctor living with babies when they are teething. I do wish I could take him to her until that period was over."

Ben laughed outright, and answered:

"A mother can always accomplish wonders, of course. Well, my dear, I have no doubt but that there are some doctors in Columbus who can do quite as much. It is only ten miles away, and Dick is fleet of foot, and if our Harry should get sick he shall have the best as soon as a horse can go for a doctor."

The young mother was silent. The day was gloomy enough for Ben. The skies cleared away in the afternoon, and he said he would go out and look for a sheep that had strayed from the fold.

"It must be somewhere in the woods," he answered to his wife's query as to where he was going. "I will find it, and be back home before dark, my dear. Come, now, don't be borrowing trouble about Harry. He looks well enough, and just as soon as we possibly can, you shall both be sent to see the precious grandmother. She will be paid for waiting by seeing such a splendid grandchild."

The young wife smiled hopefully again, and he left to search for the stray.

"Pshaw! why do I let such a small matter as the loss of twenty dollars worry me? I can easily make it back. Ha, ha, ha! Perhaps it was a cheap lesson, after all; it will break me from going on the race-track. That will do for sporting men, but not for a farmer. What if Jack Balston has made a fortune in a few months on the turf? A hundred men have lost theirs. If I go into the business I will only be another. No, I will stick to legitimate business hereafter, and let those who love the turf make or ruin themselves."

He went down his fence, and came to a place where it needed mending. A good farmer never allows his fences to go an hour without mending, as soon as the weakness in them has been discovered. He repaired the gap, and then strolled off into the woods in search of his lost sheep. It was marked and branded, and he knew he would have no trouble in identifying it if he came across it. There were many paths running through various parts of the forest, and in one of them he saw the hoof-print of a sheep. He followed the track made by the sheep for a mile to a creek. Here the path came into a traveled road, and there was a bridge spanning the stream.

He went to the bridge, and was standing on it watching the clear waters flow beneath, and the pretty little fishes sporting about in it, when he was startled by a husky voice, singing:

Oh, I'm a jolly vagrant,
I go from door to door;
I sometimes get a crust of bread,
And ask for nothing more.

I used to be a gentleman,
Without a single care,
But hard luck has made me hungry,
With scarce a coat to wear.

By this time the jolly singer hove in sight, and a sight he was. Prince of shreds and patches he certainly seemed. He wore an old silk hat, battered and faded until it was almost shapeless, and his coat was out at the elbows; it was a frock coat, and fringed with tatters. His shoes were such as some one had probably cast aside months before. He was a young man, but so tanned by the sun and covered with the dust and dirt of the road that it was impossible to guess his age. He was as jolly as he looked miserable.

"Hello, my fine fellow! You are merry to-day," said Ben, when the tramp came in sight.

The vagabond stopped short and gave utterance to a laugh. It was a reckless sort of laugh, and not in keeping with the whine of the professional tramp.

"Why shouldn't I be merry?" he asked. "Why, I'm rich; yes, I am very rich. Ha, ha, ha!"

"In what? It certainly can't be clothes."

"Clothes! Ah, vanity of vanities! It is not good that a man should array himself in fine linen, my dear unsophisticated friend. Many who do so, and fill their barns with grain, die, but who ever heard of a tramp dying? No, sir; we are men of means. The whole world

is ours; that is, the earth part of it. You drive us from one part of this eminent domain, and we simply drift to another part of it. We are usually called prestidigitators; we make things disappear."

"You often find it convenient to disappear yourself, do you not?"

"Quite frequently; but then I have long been a student of Cotton Mather's invisible world, and I have practised the art of disappearing to perfection. My dear unknown friend, I want to tell you a secret; there is nothing so good to make a man disappear as a shot-gun and a hull-dog. They stimulate the nerves to action, and put in practice all the disappearing qualities of the man, in instantaneous motion. Why, I have known pals to increase the length of their legs four inches in a single year by disappearing in that manner."

"You are a jovial sort of a fellow; you seem to take the world easy."

"And why not? I am a philosopher and a poet. Did you not hear me singing when I came down the road?"

"Yes."

"That was one of my own compositions," he said, with another hearty laugh. "It has never been sung by any other person. I composed it, both words and music, and I alone have the right to sing it. It is plastered all over with copyrights, and I take care to keep it out of the hands of the singers on the variety stage, and the farce comedies. The words they might steal, but the tune they never can, for I never sing it twice to the same tune. You must understand, sir, that I am a very original vocalist."

"Original, how?"

"Why, my voice, you understand, is too original to be strapped down within the narrow metres and bounds of any composer's scale. When it wants to soar up to high C, it is going there, regardless of all laws of cords or discords, harmony or anything else. If it takes a notion to sink below the staff half a dozen degrees, why, down it goes, and that is the end of it."

"You are certainly a very remarkable tramp."

"You must understand, my dear friend, that tramping is a very remarkable profession. We are only itinerant philosophers; we are the brilliant comets wandering apparently aimless in this terrestrial solar system called society. We see all classes of people, study all classes, and even make some friends. We fall in love, marry, settle down to tramping with a whole family. We are what is called a useless commodity in the human family, but that is a mistake; we are essential, and have our share in life. Why, what would become of all the old clothes and cold turkey, mince pies and delicacies, if it were not for us? What would become of the manufacturers of shot-guns and the people who raise bull-dogs? Then, last but not least, what would the artist be for the comic papers and paragraphers do if there were no tramps?"

By the time the jolly vagrant had finished enumerating the advantages of tramping and tramps, Ben was laughing, but after a moment he grew serious, and asked:

"Is there not a history back of this life you are leading? You have not long been a tramp, my friend? There is no doubt but that you have known better days."

The poor fellow took a seat on the bridge, and allowing his weary legs to dangle over the side, heaved a sigh, as he answered:

"Yes, my friend, there is a history back of this."

"Aye! I knew it."

"But I don't care to talk of it now."

"I suppose it is painful. You are an educated man, I see."

"Oh, yes; I have been through the junior course."

"I feel an interest in you."

"Do you?"

"Yes, I do. I think that a man with your wit, talents and education ought to have a better calling than tramping. Is your mother living?"

"No, thank God! Both my parents died before I came to this. They not only left me educated, but wealthy. I had a snug little fortune of sixty thousand dollars when they died. Yes, one year ago this hand could have written a check for ten thousand dollars that would have been honored in one of the largest cities in the country."

"How did you lose it all?"

The tramp looked at him for a moment, and then answered:

"You are a farmer. Did you ever notice when feeding your cattle that one great big, lusty steer with long, keen horns would drive the others off, and take it all himself?"

"Yes."

"It is so in human life. Some men are lucky. They may not drive others away by force, but they do it by scheming. If you are a farmer, stick to your farm. It may come in slow, but it comes sure. I was rich, but in an evil hour I was persuaded to go to the races; the turf infatuated me. Stranger, you have spoken the first kind word I have heard for months. Let me give you a bit of advice. *Don't go near a race-track.*"

[To be continued.]

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Some fruits mature by the aid of irrigation. Oranges and lemons, for instance, require much added moisture. Around each tree narrow trenches are dug and so connected that

and plum is the nectarine. In appearance it is like a small peach, both in form and color; yet it lacks the down which characterizes all peaches, being perfectly smooth on the outside. Otherwise it is very like a peach, excepting that it has a peculiar acid of its own and less of the distinctive peach flavor.

Meanwhile the small fruits succeed one another. The various kinds of berries are most satisfactory and irreproachable. The currants are especially fine, being very large, beautiful and perfect. Cherries are likewise abundant and well matured, the sweet ox-heart cherry being very plentiful. In midsummer the strawberries are red and delicious, bright sunshine being necessary to their color and flavor.

The plums are not less delicious. The damsons and green gages are prolific and delightful. The prune (which, when dried, is the prune of commerce) is nice, but exceedingly sweet. In color it is dull purple. The Hu-

grapes are grown in this way in that climate, a single bunch sometimes weighing several pounds. The Concord, Isabella and Delaware are found, but not so plentifully as are the others named.

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the system, lowers the vitality and decreases the power of resistance against colds and chills. Many people are feeling weak and shivery just now. They complain of cold hands and feet. Their blood doesn't circulate properly; the raw, bleak air seems to go right through them. Others feel worn out and lack vigor. They are bilious, nervous, have backaches, headaches, and a pale, sallow complexion. All these symptoms indicate that the liver and kidneys are out of order. Feeble circulation of the blood shows that the system is in a very low condition. People who feel like this are facing some dangers they little suspect.

LOOK OUT

for pneumonia, influenza or some other dangerous complaint when you are in this state!

If you have any of these symptoms and are not feeling so well as you ought to feel, do not wait until you are laid up with a serious illness. Act at once. Take something that will build up the system, put the blood in healthful motion and act on the liver and kidneys. Prevention is better than cure.

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To anyone sending us 10 cents in stamps or currency, we will send FREE, by mail, one packet each of the three very popular FLOWERS illustrated in our colored plate, and also one packet each of the NEW IMPERIAL TOMATO, the finest variety yet introduced, and the NEW PINK PLUME CELERY, also illustrated in our GARDEN AND FARM ANNUAL for 1896. A copy will be sent free to every address.

GROSMAN BROS., Rochester, N. Y.

SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS

when water is turned into them it in time makes its way around all the trees. But it is wonderful to see the peaches growing juicy and mellow without this artificial aid. Heavy fogs coming in at night during the fruit season drench all the trees almost as much as would a shower of rain. These fogs roll in about sundown, and envelop everything until about ten o'clock the next day, when they lift, and the ntempered sun shines upon the world the remaining portion of the day. Often these fogs are so dense in the early morning, about eight o'clock, that it is impossible to see across the street. There is the so-called "dripping fog," which anywhere else would be considered fine rain or drizzle, but it is in reality fog, and lifts in that manner, leaving all things as wet as after a light shower. Still the marvel remains that under such hot sunshine fruits should ripen to such rare juiciness.

Early in June the apricots begin to ripen. Upon the trees they appear at a little distance much like oranges, the color being the same, but the foliage is wholly different. The apricot resembles a cross between the peach and plum; in size and form it resembles the peach, while the stone within is like that of a plum. In color the ripe apricots are either yellow or orange. The latter have ruddy cheeks, which the small birds that infest the orchards are prone to indulge in.

The peaches follow the apricots, and are notably large, thick as to meat, and wonderfully juicy. Indeed, they seem overful of the rich juice, which bursts forth whenever a break is made in the fruit. The Early Crawford are especially fine. So beautiful they are with their brilliant red cheeks amid their glossy green leaves. Many other varieties abound. The very earliest, perhaps, is a pale greenish-white peach, watery and without flavor. Again, when all the finer varieties are gone, a similar pale greenish-white peach closes the peach season. The "India clings" are a peculiar kind of peach, and are beautiful when pickled, the fruit and juice being then the color of red beet pickles. When ripe, these peaches are a true mouse-color on the outside, and heavily covered with down. When the gray skin is removed, the peach within is found to be a dark blood red. Among the later peaches, the Late Crawford are very fine, large and luscious. They are especially nice for canning, for although there is supposed to be fruit the year round in southern California, quite as much is there canned for winter use as in the East, for during the winter months nothing is to be had in the way of fresh fruit but oranges and lemons and imperfect strawberries. The latter are sour and lacking in color all seasons but the summer, although they are grown the year round, with short intervals between crops.

Another interesting cross between the peach

garian prune is more brilliant in coloring, being rich purple with pinkish side. It is much larger than the common prune, being as large as an egg. It has a fine acid flavor, and when canned is very fine and beautiful. This is one of the choicest of the California fruits, and is also quite commonly grown.

In all the California orchards no grass is seen. The ground beneath all fruit-trees is carefully plowed and kept free from all grass and weeds.

The orange is raised in abundance in southern California. This fruit needs to be thoroughly ripe to be pleasant, and is most enjoyed, perhaps, when eaten under the orange-trees. Buds, blossoms, green fruit and ripe are seen at one time upon the trees, in late winter or early spring. Nothing could be more beautiful. The contrast between the dark green of the leaves and the white of the blossoms and deep yellow of the ripened fruit is charming. The California oranges and lemons are not so highly regarded as those from other parts of the world. The Florida orange is richer and sweeter, while some of the foreign fruit likewise surpasses California's citrus fruits—the orange and lemon. Nevertheless, great quantities are shipped to distant markets. The navel, a seedless orange, is the most satisfactory of the California oranges. An imperfect miniature orange is embedded in the blossom end of each navel orange, giving the peculiar appearance from whence the name is derived.

And the endless variety of grapes has not been mentioned. The Spaniards, who long ago settled in California, brought the Spanish wine-grape to southern California, where it is known as the "Mission" grape. A thousand acres of these grapes sometimes constitute one vineyard. They are grown for wine-making. The various Spanish grapes are more solid and firm than our eastern varieties usually grown. This is true of the wine, or Mission, grape; likewise of the muscat, or raisin, grape, and of the Tokay, a beautiful pinkish grape. The raisin-grape, before being dried, resembles in appearance the white Malaga grape, such a favorite in the winter in the East; but the raisin-grape is honey sweet, and requires no other preparation than drying and pressing to make the raisin of commerce. It is generally supposed that sugar is added, but it is a mistake. In the springtime it is a pleasure to drive through countless acres of grapes in bloom; the fragrance of the blossom is so delicate and delightful. In the winter these vine vineyards present a strange appearance. The vines are never permitted to grow more than three or four feet high. Cut back in this way, the vine-stalk grows thick and woody; it is usually as thick as one's arm, and has a gnarled outline as it stands erect. Immense is the yield when the

acre, and do this with much less cost of labor, of money and of time than he would expend on the more northerly farms.

It is also very difficult to convince the farmers of the East and West that they can migrate to the South, become farmers either in a small or a large way, buy their lands at a very much less price, stock their farms at a very much less cost, build their homes at very much less expense, find just as profitable a market, indeed, oftentimes a much more profitable market by reason of the early products.

If the rules which govern and control ordinary evidence are to be accepted, then it has been proven beyond dispute that there are farmers living in various sections of the South who, notwithstanding the crude means at their disposal, have accomplished in a few years all that is indicated in this article, acquiring for themselves and their families a comfortable home and a competency.

If there is any possibility of doubt upon this question, we call the attention of our readers to the letters that have been published from time to time from farmers who have lived in the Tallahassee country all the way from ten to fifty years, and whose statements may be relied upon as absolutely accurate.

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ONIONS ARE CHEAP

SO ARE POTATOES OATS AND CORN

but no cheaper comparatively. They are a reliable standard vegetable, and the grower who has the skill and soil to produce a good crop every year will make it pay in the end.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STAY IN while prices are lowest. The seed plays its part. The right kind, with a 90 per cent growth, is a good start. This list contains the leaders, and the seed has been grown from pedigree onions, picked out for seed each year. The crop will be like them if grown right.

Our splendid 116-page Seed Catalogue for 1896 tells the whole story for Garden, Lawn and Farm, is mailed FREE with every order. One packet RED Hubbard Squash, rare and valuable, FREE, and our complete 116-page catalog for 1896 (a mirror of American Horticulture) free with every order, if you mention this paper.

VAUGHAN'S SEED STORE

New York: 20 Barclay St. Chicago: 84 and 86 Randolph St.



A. S. HARPER, PHOTO.

SCENE IN THE TALLAHASSEE HILL COUNTRY, FLORIDA.

Our Household.

MEMORIES.

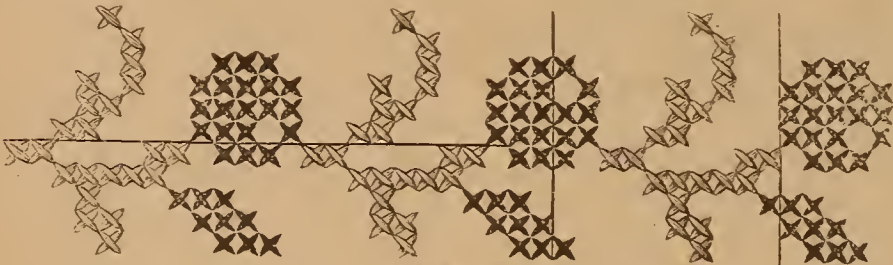
As a perfume doth remain
In the folds where it hath lain,
So the thought of you remaining
Deeply folded in my brain,
Will not leave me; all things leave me:
You remain.

Other thoughts may come and go,
Other moments I may know,
That shall waft me, in their going,
As a breath blown to and fro,
Fragrant memories: fragrant memories
Come and go.

Only thoughts of you remain
In my heart where they have lain,
Perfumed thoughts of you remaining,
A hid sweetness in my brain.
Others leave me; all things leave me:
You remain.

THE COLONEL'S VALENTINE.

CAMP life in the Shenandoah valley in the winter of 1864 was very dull. The weather was unusually cold, and the snow made it seem like a northern winter. The people in the little towns were mostly Union people and Quakers, so the soldiers had only to guard against the depredations of guerrillas. A little newspaper, said to be published by three girls in the nearest village, oc-



CROSS-STITCH.

asionally found its way to the camp. That, with story-telling around the camp-fire and the daily mail, was about all there was to break the monotony.

It was on one of the cold February days, when the men were wishing for something to turn up, that a whole bevy of young ladies, wrapped in Union flags, came to the camp in strange-looking vehicles, for they so seldom had sleighing that when snow came they improvised sleighs. Mules were hitched to these carryalls, for the horses had mostly gone to war.

The girls brought jellies and cans of fruit and baskets of good things for the sick soldiers, and by their cheery presence enlivened the well ones. That was one of the bright days of that last stay in the valley.

Very soon after the general found out that the quarterly meeting of the Quakers was to be held in the meeting-house in the home village of the girls, and he said it would be a good time to return the com-

outside perhaps hindered the "spirits moving," for when the meeting was over a good Quaker said that everybody was so still he most thought some of the Quakeresses were thinking about giving the soldiers a supper.

The guard made the day as long as possible. They were served to the best bacon and all the luxuries the people had. Colonel H was officer of the day, and among other exploits he investigated a cave in the neighborhood. It was hung with stalactites, and had inner rooms, and in a pretty little nook he discovered the printing-press upon which the girls' little paper was printed. It was hidden away there for fear of raiders.

But all such days, as well as sad ones, end, and they all went back to camp. Soon after came the fourteenth of February, St. Valentine's day. That day the camp postman found in the mail-box an envelop directed to the "Officer of the guard of the Quaker meeting-house." Inside the envelop, in dainty handwriting, was this little valentine:

You wear the colors I admire.
You move the way that I prefer,
You smile, and day has lost its fire.
You sigh, and balmy breezes stir.
For me you make the sunbeams tire.
And eve is sweet because of you.
Oh, sweet the storm, and sweet the shine!
But am I yours, or are you mine?
Do you recognize your valentine?

It is more than thirty years since then, but in a little treasure-box lies the valentine, well preserved, kept in memory of the brightness and cheer the girls brought to camp that lonesome winter day. The colonel said that no royal robe ever looked more beautiful upon lady princess than did the flags wrapped about the girls. And he often suggested that if St. Valentine ever needed a new dress, it should be fashioned from an American flag—the red, white and blue.

MARY JOSLYN SMITH.

PROMISCUOUS PARAGRAPHS.

The most valuable talent any person can have is ability to govern his tongue. The preacher said last Sunday that the reason Saint Peter got into more trouble than any other apostle was because he talked the most. A secretive disposition is not pleasant if it makes a person cold, unapproachable and unsympathetic; but a

said Benjamin Franklin. As every talent is improved by practice, so the habit of not telling ought to be assiduously cultivated.

Pride, when it is a permeating quality of the disposition, enters into the most solemn acts of devotion and shows itself at a tender age. A pastor of a church had taken a trip to Palestine, and brought home from there a bottle of water from the Jordan, intending to use it in the baptismal water with which the children were consecrated. The wee babies did not appreciate this distinction, of course, but the older boys and girls were impressed with the fact. On the Saturday night preceding the ceremony, one six-year-old boy surprised his mother by uttering this prayer:

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
If I should die before I'm baptized in Jordan
water I'll be real mad.

GARI LEON.

CROSS-STITCH.

For ornamenting small doilies for covering bread, the cream-pitcher and such things in summer, nothing is prettier than squares of fine linen, fringed at the ends, and worked with cross-stitch. As the embroidery-silks now used are fast colors, these can be employed. Pale greens, pink or soft shades of yellow-browns are the prettiest colors to use. Get only the best qualities, and do not use hot water in washing them.

SCHOOL LUNCHES.

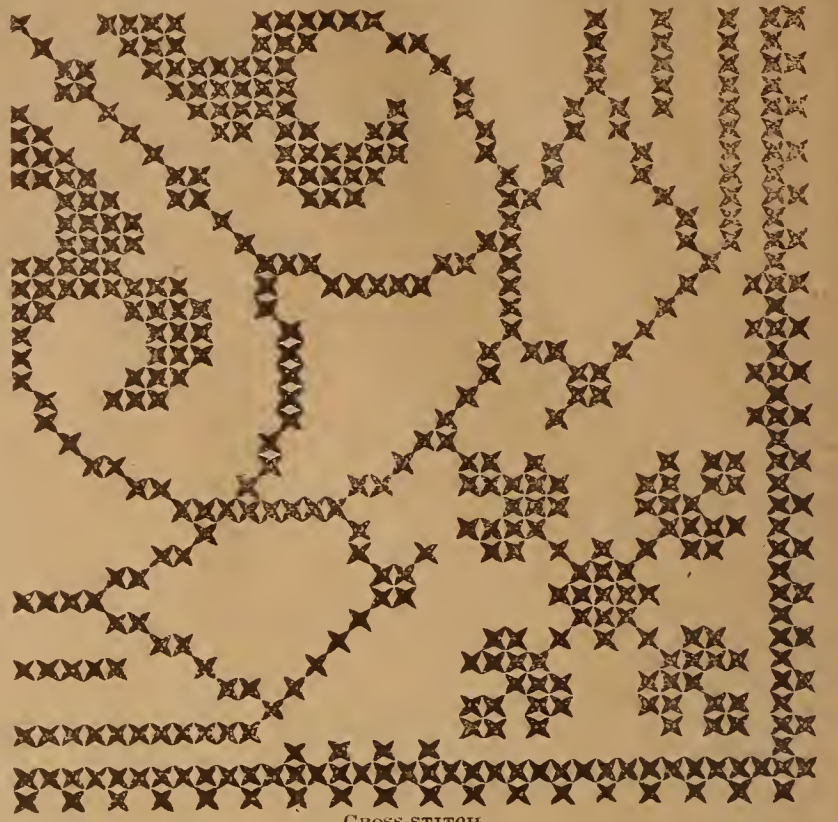
As our mental powers depend greatly on physical conditions that are largely controlled by our food, the subject of school lunches becomes an important one. At best a cold lunch is a poor substitute for a warm meal and cheerful circle around the home table, so that too much care cannot be taken to make it attractive and appetizing.

It is a physiological fact that our food, to do us the most good, must be eaten slowly and under pleasant circumstances; but what teacher has not seen some pupils gulp down their food in great mouthfuls, getting it out of sight as quickly as possible, or hiding their dinner under the desk, slyly take immense bites, furtively watching to see if they are noticed, having almost the air of one committing a theft, while others will hastily snatch a piece and run out of doors, eating all alone? This is not due wholly to carelessness or to a desire to get out to play, but often to a feeling of shame concerning their dinner and its appearance; and I am sure any observing teacher will sanction the statement.

It is a serious thing to give a child such a lunch that it will be ashamed of it before its companions, causing it to injure its health by eating improperly. Too often we think boys don't care, and that anything will answer for them, but they are equally as sensitive as girls.

Food will not dry out so quickly in a covered tin pail as in a basket. A lunch-pail such as mechanics use is not expensive, and with the different compartments one can put up an attractive lunch. If a basket is used, it should be cleaned and lined with papers fresh each morning. Arrange the lunch neatly and carefully, spread a clean napkin over it, and cover with a fresh paper to exclude dust and as much air as possible. Cut bread in thin slices, and be as particular with every part of the school lunch as with the home dinner. If cold meat is given, cut thinly and attractively, not chunked off. Keep a set of suitable cups,

or better still, jelly-glasses, which, with their close-fitting covers, make such admirable receptacles for fruit, custards, and all such things. If pie is given, it should be served in a saucer, so as not to be broken or mussed. Five cents' worth of



CROSS-STITCH.

paraffin-paper, that can be bought at any grocery, will last for months to wrap cheese, cucumber pickles and such things in and keep them moist, also from spoiling the rest of the lunch. Do not be afraid to use pretty dishes and silver spoons and forks when needed, for the use of dainty things makes a child careful, while old or cracked dishes hurt their pride and make them careless, for what difference does it make if such things are broken?

CLARA S. EVERTS.

TABLE-COVER.

This pattern is easily enlarged and put upon linen or cotton momic-cloth, and is then worked in shades of Roman floss, either the scarlet or pink poppy being copied, finished with linen fringe.

CHILD'S DRESS.

Use any soft wool material, making the skirt plain, and the waist also plain, except-



CHILD'S DRESS.



TABLE-COVER.

pliment of their visit, by sending a guard for their meeting-house during the service.

All were delighted, and it was hard for the general to limit the guard. Cavalry and infantry in military dignity went to their pleasant duty. The novelty of such a Quaker meeting with uniformed soldiers

tendency to tell everything makes one contemptible. We are all alike foolish ("What fools we mortals be!"), but the difference between the fools and the so-called wise is that some folks blab everything, and others hold their tongues. "Three can keep a secret if two are dead,"

ing a large box-plait in front. Mandolin sleeves. The soft collar should be of silk. The belt and collar should be of white cloth, braided, allowing a wide band of velvet matching the goods to finish the collar on the edge.

MAGNET.

CHICKEN DRESSED WITH MUSHROOMS.

Take a nice, tender young hen; dress and salt the fowl the day before using; tie the legs firmly together, or, better still, slip them under the strip of skin and flesh just below the slit where the entrails are removed. This gives the chicken a more shapely appearance. Put your fowl on at eight, or not later than nine, if you wish to serve it at twelve; or if you dine at six,

and chop fine. Put into a crock, cover with vinegar, add an onion, spices and a bay leaf. Let it stand a day, then boil until tender. Put in a lump of butter as large as a walnut, thicken with browned flour, and serve very hot.

FORCEMEAT BALLS.—Cook veal until tender; remove, and chop fine; season with salt and pepper. Boil two eggs hard, and roll fine. Crush three or four crackers very fine; mix veal, eggs and crackers, roll into balls about the size of a walnut; then drop into the soup, and boil.

OYSTER FRITTERS.—Beat an egg lightly, and thicken with bread crumbs or rolled crackers; season with salt and pepper. Have ready a skillet of very hot lard; roll the oysters in the bread crumbs, drop into the lard, and fry a light brown. Serve with butter, very hot.

TOMATOES.—

A can of tomatoes and about a nickel's worth of dried beef are necessary for this. Pare the beef first, chop in small pieces, and stir into the tomatoes. Season plentifully with pepper, salt and butter. Serve very hot. Particularly fine.

MARGARET M. MOORE.

MUSLIN SEWING.

This month is a good time to get all the muslin sewing done. The careful housewife bought all her muslin last summer, had it shrunk and bleached while the weather was warm, and carefully ironed and put away for this very time. The one who did not think of it must now wrestle with ice, snow and cold, and will probably think, before she is through, that shrinking muslin is a very tiresome job; but do not make up your garments without first shrinking, or you will be quite disappointed both in the fit and length of your garments. Every lady should have at least four short gowns, made as shown in the illustration, to use in case of illness, so that frequent changes can be made.

Three pretty styles of chemises are here given, as many ladies like to return to them



SHORT NIGHTGOWN.

put the fowl on at two. Let it boil for two hours, then transfer to a deep pan.

Have ready a quart or two of mushrooms. With these proceed to fill the chicken, place it in the oven, and roast for two hours, basting and turning frequently. Serve with gravy. And do you know how to make good gravy? Take three spoonfuls of flour, dampen with rich cream, add plenty (now remember, plenty) of salt and pepper, stir this in the basting-broth, and let it boil. Delicious? That doesn't express it!

And speaking of gravy, do you know how to make good beefsteak gravy? In the first place, you should roll your steak in flour and fry it in butter and lard, mixed; then while the skillet is piping hot, toss in two spoonfuls of flour. Stir until it begins to turn brown, but do not scorch; add half a pint of cold water. Now, don't get scared at the way the gravy looks, but just continue stirring. In a minute the mass will begin to get smooth and boil; then pour in a half pint of cream or milk, add a tiny lump of butter, a dash of pepper and plenty of salt. Let it boil an instant, then serve, and everyone will say, "Please pass the gravy again."

SOURD RABBIT.—Wash a fine, fat rabbit thoroughly and quarter it; slice a couple of onions, and chop fine. Throw these over the rabbit, then cover with vinegar; add a handful of spices, a sprig of thyme and a bit of sage, and let it stand for a day; stew in this liquor until tender, adding more vinegar as it boils low. When the rabbit is thoroughly cooked, remove it, and stir into the liquor two spoonfuls of brown flour; add a lump of butter. This



PRETTY CHEMISES.

makes a delicious sauce to serve with your rabbit. This is a fine old Dutch dish.

SOURD HEART.—This is prepared in much the same way as soured rabbit. Take a heart (calf's heart preferred), cut

for summer wear. Daintiness in all these articles is more to be aimed at than extreme ornamentation, fine ruffling, lace and hand embroidery being the most desirable. Lonsdale cambric or long-cloth

Turning These Days Into Money

Days with nothing special to do. It is easy enough to make them profitable.

Any Boy Or Girl Can Do This

By representing the leading magazine for the home, THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL. An easy way for every boy and girl in the country to earn money.

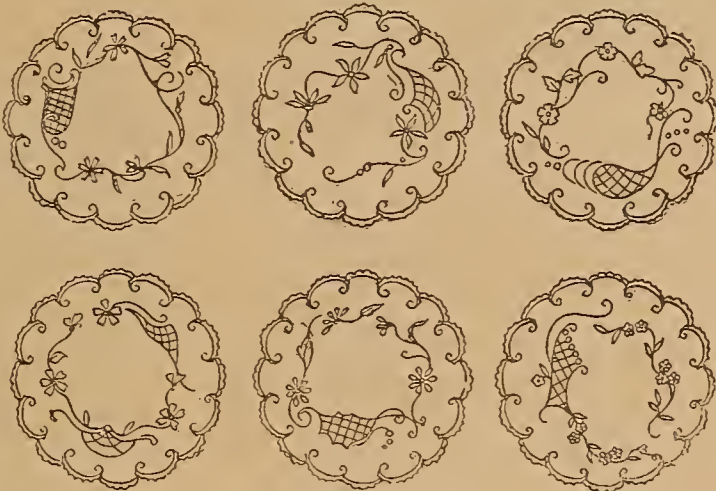
Write about the plan to

The Curtis Publishing Company
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

is to be preferred to muslin, as in these days one doesn't care for so much bunching of a material about the waist.

DOILIES.

This set consists of violets, daisies, forget-me-nots, chrysanthemums, bachelor's-but-



STAMPED DOILIES.

tons and buttercups. The flowers and leaves are to be worked in the natural colors, the cross-lines in gold thread, or white crossed with a delicate tint, and the jewels in deep colors; the edge in white heavy floss. Each doily is six inches square, stamped on an excellent quality of linen, and the set retails in stores for 60 cents.

We will send, postage paid, this set of six linen doilies (Premium No. 572) to any address for 30 cents; or with FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, 55 cents.

FRANGIPANNI PATTIES.

These dainty little patties are holiday affairs that are not especially familiar to housekeepers. Make six small tart-molds. Line them with puff paste or any nice, pastry. Little patties of paste, such as are used for cranberry tarts, will do for the purpose. These are to be filled with frangipanni cream. To make this cream, put half a cupful of thin cream or rich milk in a saucepan, with an even tablespoonful of flour mixed in. Cook the cream till it thickens a little—it will take three or four minutes to cook—then remove it from the fire, and add a few drops of orange flavor, one tablespoonful of sherry and one of brandy, and, last of all, yolks of four eggs. Set the saucepan in boiling water, and stir the mixture till it grows thick; then add a tablespoonful of candied fruit, chopped fine, or a tablespoonful of candied ginger, almonds, or citron cut in fine shreds. Cherries, candied, are very nice for this purpose. If the cream thickens too much, as it will sometimes in cooking, add more fresh cream, so that it is about the substance of a nice custard when done.

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cooks a whole meal at once, without odor or burning, and at a saving of fuel. Money returned if unsatisfactory. Write for circulars. Agents Wanted—Either sex.

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\$1,000. IN POTATOES GIVEN AWAY.

EARLY FORTUNE is the earliest potato grown, and has proved it. A potato grower writes: "Early Fortune is the earliest potato in the world. I have tested everything; quality, shape, and color the best. One potato produced me over 80 lbs. It is going to lead everything." We want a great test made in 1896, and will give Free a barrel of them to growers of the largest yield from one potato in each State and Territory.

4 WEEKS FROM PLANTING Instructions with potato. One potato is worth \$1.00 to any person.

ALL HEAD CABBAGE—Very early. Sure to be all head. **SUREHEAD CABBAGE**—is all head and sure to head, of large size, excellent quality and a good keeper. Single heads have weighed over 60 lbs.

JAPANESE CLIMBING CUCUMBER—A wonderful variety from Japan, and will climb a trellis, wire netting, or any support 5 to 8 feet. Fruits early and continually; long, tender, excellent for pickling. Please all, and a wonderful curiosity.

GOLDEN THUMB POP-CORN—A perfect little wonder, grows 18 inches high, produces several golden ears to each stalk, excellent for popping.

\$250.00 FOR EARLY TOMATOES. This wonderful Early Tomato has proved a great success for earliness, smoothness and quality.

Perfect ripe fruit has been produced in less than 50 days. We offer \$250 for ripe tomatoes grown in the least number of days from day seed is planted. Full instructions with seed. We own it all.

We will send one whole potato (packed from frost), and one packet each of All Head Early and Surehead Cabbage, Japanese Climbing Cucumber, Early Tomato, and one Ear of Tom Thumb Pop Corn, with our great Seed Catalogue for 1896 (full of Bargains) for 25c.

Floral Calendar, 8 colors, Free, if you send money order or silver.

FAIRVIEW SEED FARM, Box 53, ROSE HILL, N. Y.

Our Household.

THE MANUSCRIPT RETURNED.

Poor little wanderer!
Fate was unkind to thee!
Patient hope's squanderer!
Fame has been blind to thee!
Back from rude editors,
Lynx-eyed their scrutiny
All thy discreditors;
Thine not to mutiny.
Rest in obscurity,
Till, in futurity,
Laws may be passed
Decreeing it jailable
To write "not available"
"Genius" to blast;
Then with no stint o' space,
Thou'lt, at a sprinter's pace,
Come from the printer's case
Published—at last!

HOME TOPICS.

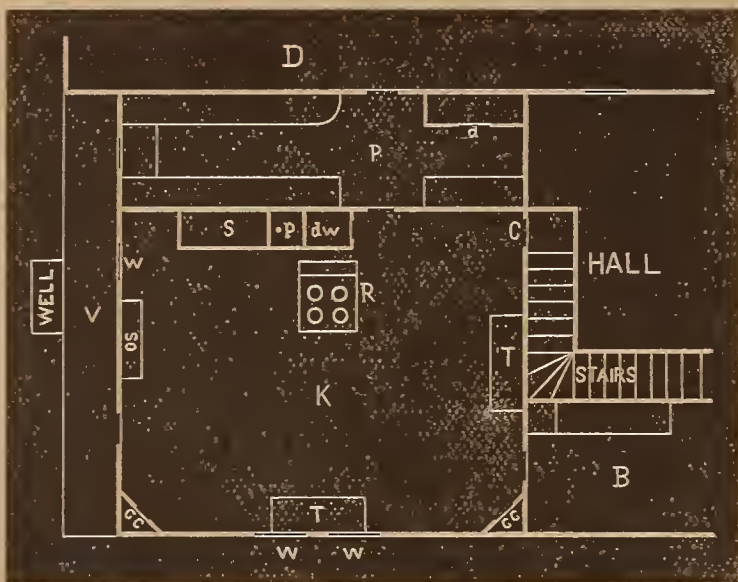
CONVENIENT KITCHEN.—Many of our readers are no doubt planning new houses to be built the coming spring. As one of the most important things about a house is a convenient kitchen, I

give the plan of a kitchen which is in one of the most convenient houses I have seen. The plan explains itself almost. The kitchen chimney does not start from the floor, but about two feet below the ceiling, and is supported by a stout closet, which gives a place for a dumb-waiter to the cellar. The door between the pantry and dining-room swings both ways, and has spring hinges, so it shuts itself. In one corner closet the ironing-board, irons, etc., are kept, in the other are hooks for hanging coats, etc., and rubber boots and shoes are also kept in it. The bath-room opens out of the kitchen, and also connects with the hall by a door and steps going up to the first landing of the stairs. The front door may be reached from the kitchen by this way, and it also answers the purpose of back stairs. The cistern pump is at the right end of the sink; at the left end is the draining-shelf, which is slanted a little toward the sink, and has an edge three inches high across the front.

It is covered with zinc. A short piece of rubber hose will fill the hot-water tank directly from the pump, and a longer one is used to fill the bath-tub. Over the table, between the cellar door and the bath-room door, is a shelf a foot wide and as long as the table. The kitchen is in the northwest corner of the house, with the veranda on the north side. The house fronts toward the south.

THE GARDEN.—February, the shortest month of the year, partakes more of the nature of spring than of winter. Although the ground is yet frozen and perhaps covered with snow, the days have grown perceptibly longer, and we are pretty sure to have some spring-like days as a reminder that it is time to think about the garden for the coming summer. It is time now to get new catalogues and order the garden seeds needed.

A hotbed should be prepared, or at least tomatoes, egg-plants, cabbages and peppers be started in boxes in the kitchen for early use. If you have a hotbed, start lettuce-plants also. In the old way of making garden, there was one general planting of seeds, after the garden soil had been made ready in the spring, and it was mid-summer almost before any vegetables were



A CONVENIENT KITCHEN.

K, kitchen; D, dining-room; P, pantry; V, veranda; B, bath-room; cc, closets; S, sink; dw, dumb-waiter to cellar; P, pump; d, sliding door; C, cellar door; T, table; os, oil-gas stove; R, range; W, window.

ready for the table, then each kind was accepted as it came along in its season. Now we make the season longer at both ends by starting tender plants under cover, and by successive plantings prolong the season of each vegetable. Of peas, beans and corn, there should be four or five plantings, about ten days apart, two or three of lettuce and cucumbers, and two of beets, cabbage and tomatoes.

This may seem to be a topic for the farmer instead of his wife or daughter, but I

IVORY SOAP

IT FLOATS

Do not do your washing with a soap that hurts your hands. It will hurt the clothes, too. Ivory Soap is pure and mild.

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO., CHICAGO.

know that the women of the household must generally look after these things, and urge their being attended to in season, or they are often neglected. I would suggest, too, that you urge the planting of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and currants, if you have not already enough to supply your table bountifully during the summer. With plenty of fresh vegetables and fruits the work of cooking for a family is very much lessened, and the meals will be both palatable and healthful.

MAIDA McL.

BOYS' SUITS FOR DRESSY OCCASIONS.

The Little Lord Fauntleroy style predominates in boys' suits, and it certainly is an elegant one when carried out in velvet or velveteen, as in those illustrated.

Fig. 1 is a suit in fawn corduroy velvet, for a boy from eight to ten, with waistcoat and broad, turn-over collar in tan cloth. Cashmere hose and patent-leather shoes.

Fig. 2 is a velvet suit for a boy from six to eight. The cape collar and deep cuffs are



FIG. 3.

edged with lace. Accordion-plaited silk shirt. Belt with buckle around the waist. Velvet knickers, silk stockings and patent-leather shoes with buckles.

Fig. 3 illustrates another evening suit for a boy from five to seven, in hunter's green velveteen with pale pink washing-silk shirt and turn-over collar. Black stockings and patent-leather shoes with buckles.

INSTANTANEOUS BOOT-TREE, OR BOOT-STRETCHER.

Take a pair of thick stockings without large meshes. Pour into them bran, sawdust or seed till full to the ankles. Then tie them firmly with a piece of string, and insert the dummy into the boot. Tight shoes or boots may be kept stretched by means of a larger-sized stocking than size of natural foot, stuffed tightly with paper.

BRONCHITIS. Sudden changes of the weather cause Bronchial Troubles. "Brown's Bronchial Troches" will give effective relief.

TO HANG PLATES ON WALLS.

When the usual wire frame is not at hand, three dress-hooks, either white or black, according to the color of the plate, may be threaded on some stout twine. The first hook is nipped over the top of the plate, the other two nipped at either side of the bottom of it, to make a triangle with the top one. Then the twine is knotted at the back very tightly, and a loop of it arranged for hanging.

THIS is the famous DE LONG PATENT HOOK AND EYE. When hooked it stays hooked. Never unfastens except at the will of the wearer—then it's easy. It's too simple to get out of order—too strong to break. If you want it say to the dealer

See that

hump

Send two cents in stamps—with name and address for Mother Goose in new clothes, to Richardson & DeLong Bros., Philadelphia.

FREE DYE! As we wish every lady to test the strength, brilliancy, and durability of "PERFECTION" Dyes we make this liberal offer. Send 10 cents for a package of Turkey Red dye for cotton, and you will also receive a package of our new Fast Black dye for cotton and mixed goods Free, for trial, if you inclose this advertisement in your letter. W. CUSHING & CO., Dept. 17, Foxcroft, Maine.

The Rocker Washer is warranted to wash 100 PIECES IN ONE HOUR, as clean as can be washed on the washboard. Write for prices and description. **ROCKER WASHER CO.,** Liberal Inducements to Live Agents. Ft. Wayne, Ind.

SOLD! UNDER A POSITIVE GUARANTEE to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard and with much more ease. This applies to Terrill's Perfect Washing Machine which will be sent on trial at wholesale price; if not satisfactory money refunded. Agents Wanted. For exclusive territory, terms and prices write PORTLAND MFG. CO., Box 4, Portland, Me.

DILLEY'S KING WASHER, THE BEST WASHER ON EARTH. REMOVABLE BOTTOM. NO RUST, NO INJURY TO CLOTHES. EVERY MACHINE GUARANTEED. We want agents and guarantee good wages to any good, lively, hustling person. Write for full description. Address: **MUIR WASHING MACHINE CO.,** Muir, Mich.

10 YEARS GUARANTEE Our New National 500 High-Arm Sewing Machine for \$17.85, with Full Set of Attachments **FREE!** Cannot be beaten. We will send it to you on 30 Days Free Trial in your home in advance. We wish to sell one to every locality. Buy from us and save Agents' profits. If you wish a cheaper machine we have them from \$4 up. Send for our Special Catalogue free. Address: **NATIONAL MERCHANDISE SUPPLY CO.,** Dept. R-54, COR. MONROE AND FRANKLIN STREETS, CHICAGO

\$250.00 FOR 4 FLOWER BEDS. The following is the greatest collection ever offered for variety of colors, and I will pay \$100 to person who grows the largest number of colors from it; \$75 to second; \$50 to third; and \$25 to fourth. It will surprise you, and make a very interesting flower bed.

- 1 pkt. Allee Panay—all colors mixed, simply grand.
- 1 pkt. Phlox—fancy mixed, all wonderful, showy colors.
- 1 pkt. Sweet Peas—Eckford's Mix, all colors, splendid.
- 1 pkt. Chinese Pink—mixed colors, hardy and very showy.
- 1 pkt. Petunia—all colors, makes a gorgeous show.
- 1 pkt. Poppies—mixed, a wonderful selection of colors.
- 1 pkt. Mignonette—mixed, all kinds to be found; fragrant.
- 1 pkt. Chrysanthemum—all choicest kinds—very choice.
- 1 pkt. Everlasting Flowers—all colors, flowers kept for yrs.
- 1 pkt. Mixed Flowers—over 100 kinds that grow and bloom.
- 2 bulbs Excelior Pearl Tuberosa—sure to bloom early.
- 4 bulbs Gladioli, one each of White, Pink, Scarlet, Variegated.
- 3 bulbs Gladioli, fancy mixed, lovely spikes, all colors.
- 1 bulb Gladiolus, Lemoine, earliest of all, butterfly colors.
- 2 bulbs Oxalis—sure to bloom—lovely color for borders.

These 10 pkts. of seed and 13 choice bulbs (worth \$1.30), will all flower this season, and make a wonderful flower bed of many colors. I will send them with my 1896 catalogue, Pansy Calendar, full instructions for prizes and how to get the most colors, for 50 cents (silver or N. O.). Order at once, and you will be more than pleased. My catalogue shows a photo of such a bed. "Cupid" Sweet Peas, the Floral Wonder, Price with each order. **F. B. MILLS, Box 123, ROSE HILL, N. Y.**



FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

THE COMING YEAR.

BY CHARLOTTE MURRAY.

Lord, another year is dawning, and thy children come to-day,
All in prayerful expectation, ere they journey on their way;
Some are dreading what may happen ere the weeks shall reach their close,
Yet would fain allay misgiving by the whispered word, "He knows."

Some hear, even now, the surging of the dark, mysterious sea,
Which shall bear them to the haven where their spirit longs to be;
Even those who are abiding in the secret of thy power
Want renewing by thy spirit in their service, hour by hour.
So, before we journey onward, wilt thou bless us each, indeed,
And bestow on us the pardon and the help we so much need?

TAUGHT A GOOD LESSON.

My father played a queer trick on me the other night. You know I used to feel that I had done myself an injustice if I did not go to the theater about five or six nights a week. Well, you know how I am situated as to my business. I work for my father, and I have to be at the office early in the morning, just as the rest of the family are sitting down to breakfast. In consequence, I get my breakfast and leave the house before they are up. I had been doing it for about six months, and when I look back I remember that about the only time I saw my mother and sister during that period was at Sunday dinner. Nothing unusual in that, of course. The same thing is true of hundreds of young men in town. But they haven't fathers like mine. He came to me one afternoon and asked me if I had an engagement for that night.

"Yes," I said; "I've promised to go to the theater."

"How about to-morrow night?" he asked.

"Nothing on at present," I replied.

"Well, I'd like you to go somewhere with me."

"All right," I said; "where shall I meet you?"

You see, he leaves the office about an hour before I can get my work finished. He suggested Lenox restaurant, at 7:30, and I was there, prepared for a quiet lecture on late hours. But when he appeared, he said he wanted me to call on a lady with him, "One I knew quite well when I was a young man," he explained.

We went out and started straight for home.

"She is stopping at the house," he said, when I spoke of it. I thought it strange that he should have made the appointment for the Lenox restaurant under those circumstances, but I said nothing.

Well, we went in, and I was introduced, with due formality, to my mother and sister. The situation was ludicrous, and I began to laugh, but the laugh died away. None of the three even smiled. My mother and sister shook hands with me, and my mother said she remembered me as a boy, but hadn't seen much of me lately. Then she invited me to be seated. It wasn't a bit funny then, though I can laugh over it now. I sat down, and she told me one or two stories of my boyhood, at which we all laughed a little. When I finally retired, I was courteously invited to call again.

I went up-stairs, feeling pretty small and doing a good deal of thinking. Then I made up my mind that my mother was a most entertaining lady and my sister was a good and brilliant girl. Now, I'm going to call again, as I have been doing quite regularly for the last week. I enjoy their company, and I intend to cultivate their acquaintance.—*Evangelist.*

FUN OR JOY.

Fun for the worldling, joy for the consecrated Christian. You may know a person's true inward condition by his desire and pursuit for either one. They, like light and darkness, never agree, but the one expels the other, and vice versa. Fun is Satan's substitute for joy; it is joy counterfeited—just like him.

Fun belongs to earth, and perishes with the earthly; joy comes from heaven, and is everlasting. Fun ends at death, and oftentimes long before; joy is only fully ushered in when this mortal shall have put on im-

mortality. Fun is from without, and is dependent on outward circumstances—as changeable as they; joy arises from right conditions within, and is in proportion to the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Word by the Holy Spirit, continually dawning on, ever increasing, widening, deepening, sweetening, quickening.

The child of God is destined by the Father to have sweetest joy in adversity; fun lasts only during prosperity's few and fleeting moments. Who would not sacrifice a world of fun for a cup of heavenly joy?

The cravings of each faculty which God has put within he has destined to be satisfied. Food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, rest for the weary, and a stream of pure, divine joy for those who crave enjoyment. God is more desirous that his own have joy than they themselves are.

FAITHFULNESS.

Long ago, in what we term the dark ages, men whose mortal bones have long since crumbled to dust reared the massive structure known as Westminster Abbey. A few years since, workmen, while repairing the roof, disclosed the fact that those long-forgotten builders had wrought with as much skill and carefulness on the hidden parts as upon those portions of the building which are exposed to public gaze. Away up under the roof, far out of sight, every part is finished with care and precision. They wrought, not for men's sight, but for God's eyes. The names of those workmen have long since been forgotten, but their work stands as a monument to their faithful service.

What of our day and time? Do we in these days work for the commendation of mortals alone, slighting the inner and hidden parts, and spending labor and strength on that which is seen of men only? The secret of all true work in all the world lies in the faithfulness of the service. God does not measure by man's rule. Heaven's rewards are not given for quantity, but for quality, and only those who have been faithful—be the work of their hands great or small—shall hear the "Well done!" of the Master Workman.—*Forward.*

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S PSALM.

The one hundred and first psalm may, with great suitableness, be called "the housekeeper's psalm." Read it with this thought in mind. A young wedded couple might accept this as their charter of rights. Home is the heart's sanctuary, and is something, if not all, that is left us of the first paradise. A home reared on this psalm will be a happy, Christian home. It will be a home of song and right living. Note these words: "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way." "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart;" "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I cut off;" "Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me." Children often take their first lessons in lying from untruthful servants. How fitting, then, the words, "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house; he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight." Could all our homes witness to the exemplification of these principles, how truly would they be sweet homes, the dearest spots on earth, the truest types of our future and heavenly home!—*Congregationalist.*

TRUST—NOT SIGHT.

"Under His wings shalt thou trust!" Not "shalt thou see?" If a little eaglet wanted to see for itself what was going on, and thought it could take care of itself a little while, and hopped from under the shadow of the wings, it would neither be safe nor warm. The sharp wind would chill it, and the cruel hand might seize it then. So you are to trust, rest quietly and peacefully "under His wings;" stay there, not be peeping out and wondering whether God really is taking care of you. You may be always safe and happy there. Safe, for "in the shadow of Thy wings will I take my refuge." Happy, "in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice." Remember, too, that it is a command as well as a promise; it is what you are to do to-day, all day long. "Under His wings shalt thou trust."—*F. R. Havergal.*

A TEMPTING OFFER.

We will give you twelve silver spoons or a gold ring worth \$2.00, if you will sell a dollar's worth of our household goods to your neighbors. Everybody needs them, so you can easily sell within an hour. Send us your name and full address, we will send goods, post-paid, and will mail the present after you have sold them. Address Rex Company, 1111 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

CIGARETTE SUCKERS.

Men Get Roped Into All Kinds of Skin Games.

The Worst Roped Man is the Cigarette Smoker—Robbed of Health and Manhood. His Most Precious Possessions.



"Say, where'd you get that coffin nail, 'Humme'?"

"Oh, I caught it on the fly from de guy on de corner."

And the two little boot-blacks—God bless 'em, they didn't know any better—sat on the curb and smoked the cigarette, out of sight.

We often wonder, when we see and hear such things, how the other half of the world lives, especially when so many spend their money, and, worst of all, their vitality, in smoking cigarettes.

If you don't think cigarettes, in fact, the cigarette-smoker who has indulged the habit for some time. See how his hands tremble; the anxious look on his face tells of irregular heart-beat; his nervousness betrays itself in a dozen ways. If you are a cigarette-smoker, you are never feeling quite at ease unless you are puffing a stinking little nerve-wrecker.

Don't you want release? Don't you want just a few months with a pure sweet breath, improved health, vigorous manhood?

See what No-To-Bac has done for others—will do for you:

CURED IN LESS THAN A WEEK.

OAKLAND, CAL., No. 1821 Market St., August 20th, 1895.

Sterling Remedy Co.: "I bought a box of No-To-Bac three weeks ago, from your agents here—Kirkland & Trowbridge—and it cured me in less than one week, since which time I have recommended it to several others, and have induced at least half a dozen to begin the treatment, all of whom say it is helping them."

I weighed 135 pounds when I began the treatment and now I weigh 122—a gain of 5 pounds within three weeks. I am 24 years of age and have used cigarettes and chewing tobacco since I was 12 years of age, smoking on an average for the last five years of about 25 cigarettes a day.

Yours respectfully,
EDW. J. DUNNELLAN.

You need not take our word for it, nor do we sell No-To-Bac on the recommendation of others. Simply buy from your own druggist, under absolute guarantee, and you run no risk. Get our booklet, "Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away," written guarantee of cure and free sample, mailed for the asking. Address The Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

SHORTHAND by mail, FREE. Standard System. Easy to learn. NAT. INST., Corning, N.Y.

PATENTS LEHMANN, PATTON & YESBIT, Washington, D.C. Examinations Free. Send for circulars

HOMESTUDY Book-keeping, Penmanship, Arithmetic, Short-hand, etc. thoroughly taught by Mail at student's home. Low rates; perfect satisfaction. Cat. free. Trial lesson free. BRYANT & STRATTON, 30 College Bldg., Buffalo, N.Y.

TYPEWRITER HEADQUARTERS 45 Liberty St., New York, sells all makes under half price. Don't buy before writing them for unprejudiced advice and prices. Exchanges, immense stock for selection. Shipped for trial. Guaranteed first class. Largest house in the world. Dealers supplied. 52-page illus. cat. free.

LEARN TELEGRAPHY Write at once for ILLUSTRATED BOOK, telling how to learn and secure a Railroad position. Address Valentines' Telegraph School, Janesville, Wis.

MAGIC LANTERNS And STEREOPTICONS, all prices. Views illustrating every subject for PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS, etc. A profitable business for a man with a small capital. Also, Lanterns for Home Amusement. 250-page Catalogue, free. McALLISTER, Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau St., N.Y.

ONLY 43 GENUINE POLICE SAFETY The Only Genuine Automatic Revolver Ever sold at \$2.43. We sold thousands last fall for \$2.75 and expect at any time to see the price go back to old cost. Send us the ad., and \$2.50 DEPOSIT as a guarantee of good faith and we will send you C.O.D., with privilege of full examination at express office before paying BALANCE. Read and CHARGES. Our Genuine Police Automatic Revolver, the most effective and reliable weapon ever made. Smith & Wesson style, about 3 1/2 or 3 3/4 S. & W. Cartridges, Barrel 2 1/4 inch, best drop forged steel, long. Best drop forged steel cylinder, full nickel plated with rubber handle. Entire length 6 3/4 inches. Loads as represented all money will be refunded. We ship and free our 30-page Catalogue of Firearms, Sporting Goods, Hardware and Patterns, Registers, Musical Goods, etc. ELY MANUFACTURING CO., 307-309 WABASH AVE., CHICAGO.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & hair falling. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists

CATALOGUE FREE Now is the time to buy a PIANO or ORGAN from the largest manufacturers in the world, who sell their instruments direct to the public at wholesale factory prices. Don't pay a profit to agents and middlemen. No money asked in advance. Privilege of testing organ or piano in your own home 30 days. No expense to you if not satisfactory. Warranted 25 years. Bank references furnished on application; the editor of this paper, any business man of this town, and to the thousands using our instrument will sell the first Piano in a place for only \$159. Organs from \$25 upwards. Write Us, BEETHOVEN PIANO & ORGAN CO., P. O. Box 628 WASHINGTON, N. J.

\$18.50 Buy Direct from Manufacturers

Save Agents Large Profits. On receipt of \$18.50, we will ship this new High Arm, High-Grade "Arlington"

SEWING MACHINE anywhere, and prepay all freight charges to any railway station east of Rocky Mountains. Money refunded if not as represented after 30 days test trial. We will ship C.O.D. with privilege of 30 days trial on receipt of \$5.00. Oak or walnut. Light-running, noiseless; adapted for light or heavy work. self-threading shuttle, self-setting needle, automatic bobbin-winder, and complete set of best attachments in metal box free. 10 Years Written Warranty. If you prefer 30 days' trial before paying, send for our large illustrated CATALOGUE, with Testimonials, explaining fully how we ship sewing machines anywhere, to anyone, at lowest manufacturers' prices without asking one cent in advance. We are headquarters and have all makes and kinds in stock from cheapest to the best. Over 52 different styles. High-Arm "Arlington Gem" machines \$14.00 and \$16.50, guaranteed better than machines sold by others at \$19.00 to \$23.00. We also sell new Singer machines at \$15.00, \$11.50 & \$8.00. We will sell you a better machine for the same money or the same machine for less money than you can buy elsewhere.

REFERENCES—Dun's or Bradstreet's Commercial Agency; or First National Bank, Chicago, whose capital is \$6,000,000.00. This special offer is made to introduce our machines and make new customers. Write today. Address (in full) CASH BUYERS' UNION, 158-164 W. Van Buren St., Dept. A-7, CHICAGO, ILLS.

DEAFNESS and Head Noises relieved by using Wilson's Common Sense Ear Drums. New scientific invention; different from all other devices. The only safe, simple, comfortable and invisible Ear Drum in the world. Helps where medical skill fails. No wire or string attachment. Write for pamphlet. WILSON EAR DRUM CO., 133 Trust Bldg., Louisville, Ky. Offices: 1123 Broadway, New York.

ON 30 DAYS' TRIAL. THIS NEW ELASTIC TRUSS Has a Pad different from all others, is cup shape, with self-adjusting Ball in center, adapts itself to all positions of the body while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines, just as a person does with the finger. With light pressure the Hernia is held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, durable and cheap. Sent by mail. Circulars free. C. H. EGGLESTON & CO., 1203 MASONIC TEMPLE, CHICAGO.

R.I.P.A.N.S. TABLETS REGULATE THE STOMACH, LIVER AND BOWELS And Purify the Blood. R.I.P.A.N.S. TABLETS are the best Medicine known for Indigestion, Bilio-ness, Headache, Constipation, Dyspepsia, Chronic Liver Troubles, Dizziness, Bad Complexion, Dysentery, Offensive Breath, and all disorders of the Stomach, Liver and Bowels. Ripans Tablets contain nothing injurious to the most delicate constitution. Are pleasant to take, safe, effectual, and give immediate relief. Price—50 cents per box. May be ordered through nearest druggist, or by mail. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL CO., 10 SPANCE STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

ESTABLISHED 1878 Dr. Scott's GENUINE Electric Belt for men and women, quickly cures Rheumatism, Paralysis, Liver and Kidney trouble, Nervous and General Debility, Gout, Indigestion, Pains in the Neck, Hips, Back or Limbs, and kindred complaints. If you cannot get our belt from your druggist, read the following plan, which we have adopted to introduce them quickly in your neighborhood. PRICE, \$3.00.

Given Away Dr. Scott's Electric Insoles. For a limited period we will make to every person who sends us \$3 for one of our Standard Belts, a present of a pair of Dr. Scott's Celebrated Electric Insoles (Price 50c.), which will positively keep the feet warm and dry. Send for our circular giving information concerning all our goods. This offer is made for a short time only; do not delay; send at once; you may never have the chance again. Agents wanted. FALL MAIL ELECTRIC ASS'N., Room 6, 842 Broadway, N. Y.

Dr. Isaac Thompson's EYE WATER

Our Miscellany.

THREE fourths of the inventions used in hook-binding are due to the ingenuity of American binders.

MEXICO's largest gold nugget was found at Planchas Placers, Sonora, in the spring of 1892. It weighed fourteen and one half pounds.

A RAPID penman can write thirty words a minute. To do this he must draw his quill through the space of a rod—sixteen feet and a half. In forty minutes his pen travels a furlong, and in five hours and a third, a mile. We make, on an average, sixteen curves or turns of the pen in writing each word. Writing thirty words in a minute we must make 480 curves; in an hour, 28,800; in a day of only five hours, 144,000; and in a year of 300 days, 43,200,000. The man who made a million strokes with the pen in a month was not at all remarkable. Many men make four million. Here we have in the aggregate a mark 300 miles long, to be traced on paper by each writer in a year. In making each letter of the ordinary alphabet, we must make from three to seven strokes of the pen.

HOW WILLIE SAVED THE HOME.

I saw in our *Advocate* that the Coin Silverware Co., of Columbus, Ohio, would send a sample set of six silver-plated teaspoons for eighteen two-cent stamps. I sent and got a set and sold them for 60 cents. The first day I sold ten sets and made \$2.40. Everybody I asked bought. They were so cheap and as nice as they could get in the stores for \$1.00 a set. The second day I could only work half a day and I sold 8 sets. The first week I had raised the money for the interest. Why won't everyone buy new silver spoons for less than it would cost to have the old ones replated? I will make easy \$15.00 to \$20.00 every week. These hard times there are many wanting money, and this is a chance that should be seized at once. Any one can get a sample of these silver teaspoons by directing as above.

AN OBSERVATORY ON MONT BLANC.

M. Janssen, the well-known French astronomer, has made another ascent to the summit of Mont Blanc, to convince himself of the safety of the new telescope mounted in the observatory, which he founded there. It appears that the observatory, which is built of snow, has shifted a little, but steps have been taken to restore it to its original position, and M. Janssen considers that the problem of establishing observatories on the highest peaks has been solved.

LANDS FOR SALE.

AT LOW PRICES AND ON EASY TERMS. The Illinois Central Railroad Company offers for sale on easy terms and at low prices, 150,000 acres of choice fruit, gardening, farm and grazing lands located in SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. They are also largely interested in, and call especial attention to the 600,000 acres of land in the famous YAZOO VALLEY of Mississippi, lying along and owned by the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad Company, and which that Company offers at low prices and on long terms. Special inducements and facilities offered to go and examine these lands both in Southern Illinois and in the "Yazoo Valley," Miss. For further description, map and any information, address or call upon E. P. SKENE, Land Commissioner, No. 1 Park Row, Chicago, Ill.; or, G. W. McGINNIS, Ass't Land Commissioner, Memphis, Tenn.

HOLLIS PREFERS THE CURFEW.

The other day a proposal was made at a parish meeting for the lighting of the village of Godshill, Isle of Wight, with eight lamps, which, it seems, could be maintained at the modest cost of a halfpenny rate once every three years. Up rose a farmer named Hollis to oppose the revolutionary scheme. To the mind of this worthy English rustic, its authors were "wanting to turn night into day." "It would set a bad example to the young," he continued, "keeping them out all hours of the night." What they ought to do was to set a good example by going to bed early and getting up early, and he would like to hear the curfew rung again.

FREE TREATMENT MORPHINE, OPIUM HABITS.

TO THE EDITOR:—To prove that we have a painless and certain cure for opium and morphine habits, will send free sample treatment to any person honestly desiring to be cured. Golden Specific Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

AN Anglo-Dutch syndicate is trying to reclaim the land in the delta of the Danube between the St. George's and Sulina branches by means of dikes. The dredging of the bar now permits vessels drawing twenty-one and one half feet to reach Sulina, and before long it is hoped the channel will be deep enough for ships drawing twenty-four feet.

STOP THAT THIEF!

There's a thief on your farm, call him what you may! He is taking the nourishment out of it, he is wearing it out! Giant Spurry will make the poorest, worn out, toughest soil as fertile as the valley of the Nile! So will Salzer's Sand Vetch, so will Giant Incarnate Clover and fifty other things. Salzer's catalogue tells all about these wonderful fodder plants. 60,000 bu. Potatoes.

If you will cut this out and send it with 10c. postage to the John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., you will receive their mammoth catalogue and ten packages grains and grasses, including Giant Spurry, free, if you mention FARM AND FIRESIDE.

AN OLD TEAMSTER'S MAXIMS.

As driving a horse is something that almost everyone has to do, even in this day of electricity and steam and bicycles, the proper way to drive is a matter of universal interest, and the following maxims, which are the words of an old driver, will be found good for men as well as for the animals:

The more whip, the less horsemanship. Bad-tempered driver—bad-tempered team. Axle-grease modifies the grain bill.

There are more halky drivers than halky horses.

The golden rule applies to horses as much as it does to men.

Whips, like emetics, are to be used very seldom.

Noisy drivers are like noisy wagons—both empty.

Blinders are worth more on the driver than on the horse.

A horse's power is proportionate to his food.

A POTATO WORTH MENTIONING.

The "Early Favorite," brought out by W. L. McKay, of Geneva, N. Y., has made a great record for '95, 720 bushels per acre. Fifteen separate yields, scattered over fourteen counties and seven States, average 454 bushels per acre. These are by farmers, and not fancy experimenters. We understand that the seed of this enormous yielder can be had at a reasonable price from W. L. McKay.

DEEP WATER.

Until now the depth of four and a half miles sounded off the coast of Japan has been the record for deep-sea soundings; but this is now beaten by a sounding in the South Atlantic of 7,700 fathoms, or nearly nine miles.

ONIONS.

Onions GOOD or Onions POOR—that's the question. Good, brittle, mild sorts that cook quickly can only be grown from best seeds planted early in very rich, finely pulverized soil. Use wood ashes or nitrates. More about Onions—in fact, ALL about Onions can be learned from Vaughan's new seed catalogue just issued from their Chicago and New York Stores. See their remarkable Onion Seed Offer advertised in this issue. The catalogue is free to readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE.

THE FLEA'S LANCE.

The flea is provided with a lance and a cutting apparatus which looks almost exactly like a miniature razor. These instruments are carefully tucked away in his proboscis and used for blood-letting purposes.

THE RECORD OF THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY!

If you appreciate merit in a piano, you would be interested in the catalogue of "Chickering & Sons," who are manufacturers of the world-famous "Chickering Pianos." The firm has been making pianos for over seventy-two years, and during all that time they have been at the head of their business. They make as fine pianos as can be made—they say they make the finest pianos in the world, and put it this way: "We unhesitatingly assert that the Chickering pianos, as now constructed, are superior to all other pianos manufactured, and absolutely conquer all competition."

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Alfalfa—Lucerne.—A. S. Lawrence, Kan. Alfalfa is the same as Lucerne. The seed is for sale by all seedsmen.

Applying Manure.—E. F. H., Kauffman's Station, Pa. Haul out the manure from the stable as fast as made, weather permitting, and apply it to the sod ground intended for corn.

Absorbents Under Poultry-roosts.—W. J. S., Grapeville, Pa. The best absorbents for poultry droppings are dry earth and land-plaster. These fix and preserve the ammonia. Ashes and lime set the ammonia free, reducing considerably the value of the droppings.

Pickle for Corned Beef.—E. C. P., Cleveland, Ohio. For every one hundred pounds of meat take four quarts of coarse salt, four pounds of sugar and four ounces of pulverized saltpeter, dissolve in water sufficient to cover the meat when closely packed and weighted in a cask or large stone jar. Bring the solution to a boil, skim carefully, and when cold, pour it over the meat.

Cow Sucking Herself.—O. G., Luckey, Ohio, wants to know what can be done to break a cow of the habit of sucking herself. We republish the following description of a simple device that will do it: Take a piece of tough, hard-wood board about eight inches

long and four inches wide and work it into the shape of the accompanying illustration. Let it be three fourths of an inch thick on the

upper and shave off to one fourth of an inch on the lower edge. Make the opening just large enough to admit the septum dividing the nostrils, and spring it into place. Round off and smooth the projecting knobs, so they will not make a sore. With this ornament the cow can eat and drink as usual, but she cannot suck herself. A smaller one will do for a calf-weaner.

Cold-frames.—W. S. N., Paris, Tenn. Cold-frames for preserving cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce plants during the winter, and for forwarding cucumber, tomato and other tender plants in the spring, are easily made. As the usual size of the glass sashes used is six by three feet, the frames should be made to correspond; that is, they should be six feet wide, and as many times three feet in length as there are sashes to be used. On the surface of the ground, in a sheltered place with a sunny exposure, set up parallel lines of boards six feet apart, and nail them to stakes driven in the ground. The back board should be twelve inches and the front board eight inches high, to give the proper pitch to the sashes. Adjust end boards to close up the frame tightly when the sashes are on. As the purpose of cold-frames is to preserve or harden plants without inducing much growth, they will require very close attention. The sashes must be opened, closed, or removed altogether, to correspond with the outside temperature, and maintain a safe, low temperature under them. If you have much use for cold-frames, you ought to have a book on gardening which treats fully on their management.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the querist should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column, must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Lung-worms in Pigs.—S. T., Scott, Ohio. Your pigs are affected with lung-worms (Strongylus paradoxus). What is said about lung-worms in sheep also applies to their cousins, the lung-worms of pigs.

Lameness Caused by Injury.—M. M., Rondo, Mo. A severe lameness, producing injury to the posterior part of the foot (hoof, perhaps) is always a very serious thing, especially if it is not known what parts may have been lesioned. I would therefore advise you to have the horse examined and treated by a competent veterinarian. The posterior part of the foot is no place for the application of liniments.

Scours when Doing Hard Work.—T. J. C., Centreville, N. C. If your horses begin to scour when worked until perspiration sets in, it is an indication that they are either worked too hard immediately after a heavy meal, or that you feed them more heavy food than they are able to digest. Withdraw the corn-meal, etc., from their food, and give time for digestion to set in after each feed before you put them to work. It is possible that both food and work are too heavy for them.

An Ulcerating Eye-socket.—C. R. A., Atoka, I. T. Clean the empty socket of the eye of your ox with warm, carbolic water, and then, if there is much luxuriant granulation (proud flesh), destroy it with lunar caustic. If there is not, or after it has been destroyed, dress the empty socket twice a day with a little iodoform, and fill the empty space with a tuft of absorbent cotton. After a healing has been effected, protection against flies will be all that is needed.

Bitter Milk.—J. F. W., New Milford, Conn. If the milk of your cow is bitter when drawn from the udder, the cause has to be looked for in the food; that is, will be found in an admixture of bitter substances to the same. If the milk is sweet when drawn, but becomes bitter afterward, the bitter taste is produced by invasion of bacteria. The remedy consists, in the first case, in a change of food, and in the latter, in a thorough disinfection of the milk-vessels, milk-room, etc., as the case may be. In some cases the bacteria may be introduced from the surroundings in the stable, or even from the bands or clothes of the milker.

Lung-worms in Sheep.—H. A., West Hickory, Pa., and J. W., Willow Hill, Ill. Your sheep, undoubtedly, are affected with lung-worms (Strongylus filaria). Nothing can be done, except to keep the sheep that are not yet too weak or too far gone in as good a condition as possible, and thus enable them to pull through. As a measure of prevention, sheep—but lambs in particular—must be kept away from wet and low grounds and from stagnant pools and ditches, because these are the places in which the worm-brood is picked up.

Thrush.—T. S., Fitchburg, Mass. Cut away with a sharp hoof-knife all loose, decayed and rotten horn, then pour into the hollow of the frog and the sole of the uplifted foot some pure carbolic acid, but while doing it, hold the foot in such a way that all the superfluous acid will run off at the toe, and that nothing will come in contact with the skin and the hair. This done, keep your horse on a perfectly clean and dry paved floor. Usually, one application will suffice; if not, another one must follow. But nothing will be accomplished unless the horse is kept out of mud, filth and manure.

Scab.—A. R., Sandfork, Ohio. If your sheep have scab, you ought to inform the live-stock commission. During the winter, or before shearing-time, it may be best to resort to a palliative treatment, which will not effect a cure, but will prevent a spreading of the disease all over the sheep. For this purpose, prepare a strong tobacco decoction and apply it to the scabby places as often as occasion requires. In the spring, as soon as the sheep have been sheared, you will either have to dip them or to wash them all over with a tobacco decoction, or with one of the regular sheep-dips in the market, which are all more or less effective. Any experienced flockmaster can advise as to their respective merits. But probably the live-stock commission will take the treatment in hand, and therefore it will not be necessary to describe the details. Keep your sheep separate from those of your neighbors; otherwise you might get into difficulties.

Diseased Eyes.—E. R. C., Muscatine, Iowa. What you describe looks a good deal like periodical ophthalmia. If you desire to have a positive diagnosis, you must have your mare examined by a competent veterinarian, because your description fails to give any characteristic symptoms. If it is periodical ophthalmia (so-called "moon-blindness"), not much can be done. All you can do is to prevent closing of the pupil and the formation of an adhesion between the iris and lens, by now and then applying a drop or two of an eye-water composed of a solution of one grain of Atropinum sulphuricum in one ounce of distilled water. The application is best made with a so-called dropper, obtainable in every drug-store. Is the mare the dam of the colt? Mares thus afflicted should not be used for breeding, because the disease is hereditary. Hard work, heavy food and foul stable-air are apt to aggravate existing and to hasten the appearance of future attacks.

Repeated Attacks of Colic.—W. J., Farmington, Neb. According to your description, your horse suffers from repeated attacks of colic. The same, undoubtedly, has an aneurism in the anterior mesenteric artery, and probably more than one of the intestinal arteries have become permanently closed. All you can do is to feed regularly, never too much at any one meal, and also to see to it that the horse is never put to work immediately after a good meal, nor fed a heavy meal immediately after coming home from work. Such animals, as a rule, will sooner or later succumb to an attack more severe or of longer duration than the preceding ones. During an attack, gentle friction on the sides of the abdomen and injections into the rectum are indicated. Heroic medicines, unless prescribed by an attending veterinarian, who knows what he wants to accomplish and what effect the medicines will have, are very dangerous.

Swine-plague—Colic.—F. K., Deshler, Neb. Swine-plague (so-called hog-cholera) can be prevented in two ways; namely, either by a protective inoculation, or by strict separation and by keeping the animals to be protected away from the source of infection. As to the latter, the difficulty consists in knowing just where the infectious principle may be existing and where not. In about a month—in March or April—I shall be prepared to apply, either myself or by one or more reliable assistants, the protective inoculation to herds of hogs in the principal swine-producing states, as it was described in the FARM AND FIRESIDE in 1892.—As to colic, it is impossible to prescribe a treatment applicable to all cases, because what is called "colic" in horses is not a definite or distinct disease, but includes several different morbid conditions, which have that in common that they show their presence by more or less uneasiness and manifestations of more or less severe pain, which appears to have its seat in the abdominal cavity. If one is not able to make a differential diagnosis, and cannot get the advice of a competent veterinarian, I would advise him to make his horse as comfortable as he can, give the same spacious quarters, with an abundance of bedding, remove everything on which the horse is liable to injure himself while rolling, etc., to apply gentle friction to the sides of the abdomen, and, perhaps, to administer a few injections of milk-warm soap-suds into the rectum, taking care not to injure the mucous membrane of that intestine, but I would not advise him to give any internal medicines, unless he has been able to make a differential diagnosis, and knows precisely what he wants to accomplish and what the effect of the medicines will be. The number of colic patients killed every year by being dosed with all kinds of medicines is far greater than the number of those that die of the effects of colic. Only where it is plain that the colic is due to constipation should a physic be given, but under no circumstances in the shape of a drench.

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Smiles.

THE DIFFERENCE.

It's funny how our ideals change
As, year by year, we older grow,
And learn the sorry lesson that
The more we know the less we know.

When I was twenty years of age
My callow heart was drowned in sighs
A neat a Dresden china maid
With sunlit hair and big blue eyes.

At twenty-five my ideal changed:
The girl I wished my lot to share
Was tall and svelte, with hazel eyes
And cataracts of auburn hair.

And now at thirty I care not
If she be fair or otherwise,
Or if her hair be black or red,
Or big or little be her eyes.

But she must be a maiden with
The knowledge and the skill to make
A wholesome, crusty loaf of bread,
And cookies, pies and jelly-cake.

AN ANGELIC HUSBAND.

There are husbands who are pretty,
There are husbands who are witty,
There are husbands who in public are as smiling
as the morn;
There are husbands who are healthy,
There are husbands who are wealthy,
But the real angelic husband—well, he's never
yet been born.

Some for strength of love are noted,
Who are really so devoted
That when'er their wives are absent they are
lonesome and forlorn;
And now and then you'll find one
Who's a fairly good and kind one.
Yet the real angelic husband—oh! he's never
yet been born.

So the woman who is mated
To a man who is rated
As "pretty fair" should cherish him for ever
and a day;
For the real angelic creature,
Perfect, quite, in every feature—
He has never been discovered, and he won't
be, so they say.

—T. B. Aldrich, in the Forum.

A GOOD CROSS-EXAMINER.

A SHORT time ago a large factory,
fitted with the most modern
appliances, including electric
light, caught fire, and despite the
most strenuous efforts of the fire
brigade, was almost demolished.

The following morning a new-
ly appointed member of the 'force' was dis-
patched to the spot, with a view of ascertain-
ing how the fire originated. After closely
interrogating the manager of the factory, he
asked to see the man who was responsible for
the electric light.

The manager stated that the electric
switches were under his sole control.
"Then you are the man that lights up the
electric affair?" said the policeman.

Manager—"That is so."
Policeman (bubbling over with excitement)
—"Now, be careful how you answer my next
question, 'cos if it ain't satisfactory, it will be
took as evidence against ye. When you
lighted the electric light last night, where did
you throw the match?"—Pearson's Weekly.

IN THE WRONG PLACE.

All lecturers like to have their efforts appre-
ciated, and some want all the world to realize
how great was the satisfaction of their audi-
ence. The American tells of an instance
where this inclination showed the lecturer in
an amusing light.

Brown—"I say, James, the boy from the
newspaper office has called for the report of
that lecture. Is it finished?"

James (a novice)—"All but a short sentence
in the middle of it, and I can't for the life of
me make out from my notes what it is."

Brown—"Oh, just put in 'Great applause,'
and let it go."

James acts on the suggestion, and the lec-
ture is sent for publication, with the doctored
part reading:

"Friends, I will detain you but a few moments
longer. [Great applause.]"—Youth's
Companion.

A TOPSY-TURVY WORLD.

The editor of an exchange has discovered
the fact that this is a sort of topsy-turvy
world. One man is struggling for justice and
another fleeing from it. One man is saving
up to build a house and another is trying
to sell his house for less than it cost, to get
rid of it. One man is spending all the money
he can make in taking a girl to the theater
and sending her flowers, in hopes eventually to
make her his wife, while his neighbor is
spending the gold he has to get a divorce.
One man escapes all the diseases that man is
heir to and gets killed on the railroad, another
goes without a scratch and dies of a whooping-
cough.

A HUMID WIFE.

To the large number of stories of the "mean-
est man" which are frequently related should
be added that of a certain Frenchman famous
for his habit of grumbling at everything and
on every occasion. He was attacked by in-
flammatory rheumatism, and was very care-
fully nursed by his wife, who was very de-
voted to him, in spite of his fault-finding
disposition. His suffering caused her to burst
into tears sometimes as she sat by his bedside.
One day a friend of this invalid came in and
asked how he was getting on.

"Badly, badly!" he exclaimed, "and it's all
my wife's fault."

"Is it possible?" asked his friend, in sur-
prise.

"Yes; the doctor told me that humidity was
bad for me, and there that woman sits and
cries, just to make it moist in the room."—
Pearson's Weekly.

"HORS DU COMBAT."

A western "hoss doctor" sent the following
to be filled:

Send this by this Boy
Tinker of Asfetty 1 ounce
— Camphor 1 ounce
Cappicom 1 — —
Lodman 1 — —
Mix

Ankrite 10c.

Cloraform 1 ounce

do not think this is spelt wright
but you will know what it is
it is for a hors. dock—M. D.

—Louisville Medical News.

SHE WAS.

Ragged Haggard (at the door)—"If ye please,
lady—"

Mrs. Muggs (sternly)—"There, that will do. I
am tired of this everlasting whine of 'lady,
lady!' I am just a plain woman, and—"

Ragged Haggard—"You are, maddim, one of
the plainest women I ever seen, an' one of the
honestest to own up to it."—Life.

THE SAME THING.

"What are you doing here?" said Mr. Tad-
dells to a tramp whom he found suspiciously
near his hen-house.

"Lookin' fer work," was the wanderer's
reply.

"You mean looking for trouble, don't you?"
"Well, isn't work trouble?"—Judge.

DELIBERATE PHILADELPHIA.

Stranger—"Can you tell me where the read-
ing-depot is?"

Policeman—"Yes, sir."

Stranger (after a pause)—"Well, why don't
you do it?"

Policeman—"You haven't asked me yet."—
Philadelphia Inquirer.

JUST THE IDEA.

Little Dot—"Uncle George says I'm too lo-
quacious. What does that mean?"

Mama—"That means you talk too much."

Little Dot (after reflection)—"I s'pose big
words was made so folks could say mean
things wifout hurtin' anybody's feelings."—
Good News.

THEIR NEED.

Miss Cycletou—"Mrs. Wheeler's husband is
too mean to live!"

Miss Sprockett—"How so?"

Miss Cycletou—"Why, the other day he over-
heard me saying to his wife that we ought to
have a bicycle club, and he sang out, coarsely,
'What's the matter with an ax?'"—Puck.

THE SHOPPING MYSTERY.

Mrs. Bargain—"Why don't you charge a dol-
lar for these goods, instead of ninety-nine
cents?"

Salesman—"Why, ma'am, you're always
sure to think of something else you want
while waiting for your change!"—Truth.

A GOOD MOOD.

Tired husband—"I've had a terrible day at
the office, and I'm mad clear through."

Wife—"Now would be a good time for you
to beat those rugs."—Truth.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had
placed in his hands by an East India missionary
the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for
the speedy and permanent cure of Consump-
tion, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat
and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical
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streets, fine waterworks, 6 churches, a fine
graded school, also the State Military Institute.
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Selections.

HOMELY COUNSEL.

It isn't worth while to fret, dear,
To walk as behind a hearse,
No matter how vexing things may be,
They easily might be worse;
And the time you spend complaining
And groaning about the load
Would better be given to going on,
And pressing along the road.

I've trodden the hill myself, dear—
'Tis the tripping tongue can preach,
But though silence is sometimes golden, child,
As oft there is grace in speech—
And I see, from my higher level,
'Tis less the path than the pace
That wears the back and dims the eye
And writes the lines on the face.

There are vexing cares enough, dear,
And to spare, when all is told;
And love must mourn its losses,
And the cheek's soft bloom grown old;
But the spell of the craven spirit
Turns blessing into curse,
While the bold heart meets the trouble
That easily might be worse.

So smile at each disaster
That will presently pass away.
And believe a bright to-morrow
Will follow the dark to-day.
There's nothing gained by fretting;
Gather your strength anew,
And step by step go onward, dear,
Let the skies be gray or blue.

—Margaret E. Sangster.

PERVERSE WAYS OF JAPAN.

THE country which has recently brought great, overgrown China into whimpering subjection is a miniature land, with an ununderstandable propensity for doing and having things exactly opposite to what western civilization demands. Henry T. Finck has brought out a book, "Lotus-time in Japan," which the *Bachelor of Arts* reviews in this manner:

"Japan is the miniature land, with its one-storied houses; its men the average height of our women, the women not over four feet five inches; where chickens and their eggs are about the size of our pigeons; where tobacco-pipes and wine-cups seem to have been made for dolls; where carriages are little Kurumas of the size of baby-carriages, and horses men; where puns are admired and plagiarism extolled, and 'where pupils dismiss their teacher;' where milk, cheese and butter have only lately been known; where the women tell their real age; dancing is done by hired girls; courtship by proxy; where they read from the end of the book, from right to left; where everything is topsy-turvy; a bride wears mourning; ghosts are welcomed; theaters are in the morning; the old men fly kites and the boys look gravely on; where they follow the veins of coal upward instead of downward into the mountains; where the art of kissing is unknown, and fireworks are fired in the daytime. They eat pickles with their rice cakes instead of syrup; wash their dishes in cold water; build their houses of light materials, never of stone; in entering a house they take off their shoes—we, our hats; the abdomen, not the heart, is the seat of the affections; they cultivate plum and cherry trees for their flowers, not their fruit; carry babies on their backs, not in their arms; place their horses in tail first in their stalls; they always place the town first in addressing a letter, and name last."—*Chicago Record.*

A RUMOR VERIFIED.

"Will we sit at the table very long to-day, mamma?" inquired a restless little daughter of five, as she watched her mother putting the finishing touches to the dinner-table.
"Yes, dearie," was the response, "and while we are alone, mamma wants to remind you to be a good little girl and not fidget, because you must be quiet. Now listen, Miss Dodge eats very slowly, and so you must eat slowly to keep her company. Remember never to get through eating before your guests."

The dinner was well under way. Thus far not a mistake to mar the comfort of either guests or hostess.

To the left of her mother sat the young assisting hostess. She didn't believe she could be quiet another minute, and to take another mouthful was equally impossible, for nothing was left on her plate but a chicken-bone. Why didn't mamma have the next course served? Those quince

preserves—were they never going to appear? She looked around the long table—everyone was through—no—there was Miss Dodge. The young daughter clasped her hands devoutly, "to keep good," as she afterward explained. Waiting patiently for the space of one minute, she turned to Miss Dodge, and, with sweet resignation depicted on face and in voice, she murmured:

"You do eat slowly, don't you?"—*Kansas City Star.*

A LOTION FOR CHAPPED HANDS.

Almost every woman has her favorite lotion for chapped hands. It depends considerably on the individual which preparation is the best. Glycerin acts as an irritant on certain skins and is soothing to others, but mixed with rose-water it usually is a success. With a proportion of citric acid it seems to be just the proper lotion for most skins. It heals, as if by magic, chapped hands, sunburn and most of the various afflictions to which a delicate skin is liable. To make this preparation, mix two fifths rose-water with two fifths glycerin and one fifth citric acid. The preparation will make the hands smart a little when first it is put on, if they are very much chapped, but it will usually heal them quicker than anything else.

Almond cold cream is also excellent for chapped hands. Take two ounces of oil of almonds, one dram of white wax and one dram of spermaceti. Mix them in a cup. Set the cup in a saucepanful of warm water. Stir the mixture until the spermaceti and wax are melted; add five drops of any fragrant oil for perfume. Pour the melted preparation into earthen jars and let it cool.

Camphor-ice is another cake which is valuable for a healing salve. Melt three quarters of an ounce of spermaceti, one ounce of gum camphor, broken into small lumps, in four ounces of almond-oil, by putting them in a cup set in boiling water. Stir the mixture repeatedly until the camphor is entirely dissolved, then strain it into little jars to harden.

A PECULIAR BOOK.

I want you to notice the peculiarity of the Bible, in just this respect, that it offers us motives and *constrains us to adopt them*; and it is the only book that is competent to do so. It comes to us clothed in light not only, but armed with power. A Brahmin said to a missionary, "What is it that makes the Bible have such power over the lives of those that embrace it? Our Vedas have no such power." Another asked, "What is it that makes this Bible give such nerve and such courage to those who receive it?" It was a heathen enemy of the Christian religion that said, "In all our sacred books there is nothing to compare with the Bible for goodness and purity and holiness and love, and for motives of action."

What I mean by the Bible as a working energy you will appreciate by a reference in a recent address of Sir Bartle Frere, who mentioned an instance that had been carefully investigated, where all the inhabitants of a certain village had cast away their idols, abjured caste, and adopted a form of Christianity which they had worked out for themselves by studying a single Gospel and a few tracts that had been left, along with other cast-off things, by a departing merchant. Where is a second book, uninspired by Scripture, that has demonstrated its inherent and unassisted energy to take hold of life, grapple with it, transform it, regenerate it, and lead it out into the likeness of the life of God?—*C. H. Parkhurst.*

PUZZLING SENTENCES.

"Here's a sentence that will puzzle you to read correctly at the first trial," remarked the commercial man as he wrote these words on the back of an old envelop: "She stood at the gate welcoming him in." The hotel clerk glanced at it and confidently began, "She stood at the gate welcom—" Then there was a confused murmur that sounded like "m-g-n-g-m-g-m-g." The newspaper man then tackled the sentence, with no better success. "Here is another hard nut," said the commercial man, as he wrote, "The rain ceaseth; then it ceaseth to rain."—*S.racuse Post.*

DON'T MISS THIS.

To introduce our Perfume, we will send a case, post-paid, for 12 cents. We will mail with it, absolutely free, a beautiful gold-plated Garnet and Opal Ring. Send 12 cents in stamps; we will delight you. W. S. Everett & Co., Lynn, Mass.

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easily, quickly and forever removes and cures every blemish and makes the skin clear, soft and beautiful. There is nothing like it. Leading actresses, professional beauties, society ladies and people of refinement everywhere eagerly unite in its praise. Hundreds of testimonials with portraits will be sent free to anyone who writes for them. Derma-Royale is the best skin preparation in the world. We will give \$500 cash for any case it fails to cure. Wherever it is once tried everybody wants it, so we are determined to introduce it everywhere, and will send you a full-sized

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We are issuing from our own presses a new and complete illustrated life of Abraham Lincoln, which will be ready for delivery soon. See advertisement on another page. This will be one of the most reliable literary works of the new year.

Recent Publications.

POEMS. By John Murray Case. A collection of the poetical works of the author, now published in book-form for the first time. Published by Haun & Adair, Columbus, Ohio.

STORIES OF GREAT AMERICANS FOR LITTLE AMERICANS. By Edward Eggleston. The primary aim of this book, as the author says in his preface, is to furnish the little learner reading-matter that will excite his attention and give him pleasure, and thus make lighter the difficult task of learning to read. It makes an entertaining story of American history, and is designed for pupils of the second-reader grade. Published by the American Book Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.

FABLES AND ESSAYS. By John Bryan, of Ohio. The author has shown considerable ingenuity in the invention of short, readable fables for the purpose of pointing morals and suggesting solutions to many of the problems of the times. The essays are for the most part clever in thought and construction. Published by the Art and Letters Co., 574 Broadway, New York.

ETIDORPEA; OR, THE END OF THE EARTH. By John Uri Lloyd. Whatever may be the author's object in putting this volume forth, it is safe to say that it will attract attention, for the reason that it possesses the charm of novelty and mystery. It is certainly a product unique in letters; a blending of mysticism and science in a work of fiction; a vehicle for the launching of bold theories and ingenious speculation on the nature and destiny of man. The work is handsomely illustrated, chiefly from original designs by J. Augustus Knapp. Published by the author, Prof. John Uri Lloyd, Cincinnati, Ohio. Subscription price \$4.

THE GEOLOGICAL STORY. By James D. Dana. Readers who have any interest in geology will find this an entertaining as well as an instructive book. It is the story of the progress and development of the science through the several eras, told in a simple and straightforward manner, and embellished with numerous illustrations. It is brimful of hints and suggestions which, springing from Prof. Dana's many years' study and research, must be of incalculable value to the student. Published by the American Book Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. Price \$1.15.

PATRIOTIC CITIZENSHIP. By Thomas J. Morgan, LL.D. The aims and objects of this book are such as every true American can indorse. The time has arrived when the highest ideals of American citizenship should be made an important part of the training in our public schools; when pupils should be made to understand, while absorbing the history of their country, the significance of popular elections, the sacredness of the ballot, the obligation of the voter to discharge his duty at the polls, and the meaning of free speech, free thought and a free ballot. It should be the duty of teachers to so define, illustrate and exemplify patriotism as to bring it clearly within the comprehension of the pupils, to the end that it may take root in their minds and become a controlling force in their lives. To stimulate patriotism and promote good citizenship is the avowed object of "Patriotic Citizenship." It is designed as an elementary text-book in civics, and a supplementary reader to be used in connection with the study of United States history. The author, General T. J. Morgan, has actively participated for more than thirty years in military, educational and civil affairs, and has been a careful student of the great living questions of the day. The distinguishing feature of the volume is a catechism of questions and answers, explaining in concise form and simple language the underlying principles of our republican government, and embracing quotations from the writings and public utterances of such great men as Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Grant, Harrison, Webster, Clay, Bancroft, Bryce, Winthrop, Longfellow, Lowell, Whittier and others. In the broadest and truest sense of the word, the book is thoroughly American, and as a manual we believe its use will greatly tend to promote, in families and schools, good citizenship and unselfish patriotism. Published by the American Book Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. Price, in cloth, \$1.

STUDIES IN THE MOSAIC INSTITUTIONS—the tabernacle, the priesthood, the sacrifices, the feasts of ancient Israel. By W. G. Moorehead, D.D., professor in the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Xenia, Ohio. Published by W. J. Shuey, Dayton, Ohio. The author is known far and wide as one of the most careful and thorough Bible students of our day, and the present volume is of unusual excellence and merit. It throws a flood of light upon the subjects treated. It ought to be read and studied carefully by everyone who seeks an accurate knowledge of the Bible.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

G. H. Grimm Mfg. Co., Hudson, Ohio. Illustrated descriptive catalogue of the Champion evaporator for maple and sorghum syrups and cider and fruit jellies.

L. Templin & Son, Calla, Ohio. Beautiful flowers from the Calla greenhouses.

Iowa Seed Co., Des Moines, Iowa. Iowa-grown field, garden and flower seeds.

C. E. Whitten's Nursery, Bridgman, Mich. Small fruits, best varieties.

R. & J. Farquhar & Co., Boston, Mass. Catalogue of seeds, plants, bulbs, fertilizers, tools, etc.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Burpee's farm annual, 1896—a complete catalogue of choice tested seeds.

Cole's Seed Store, Pella, Iowa. Cole's illustrated garden annual.

Frank Ford, Ravenna, Ohio. The busy man's book of seeds.

James Vick's Sons, Rochester, N. Y. Vick's floral guide.

S. L. Allen & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. "Planet Jr." book fully describing and illustrating this celebrated line of garden implements.

Bateman Mfg. Co., Grenloch, N. J. Catalogue of the "Iron Age" farm and garden implements, improved Robbins potato-planter.

Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y. General catalogue of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs, roses, hardy plants, etc., cultivated and for sale at the Mount Hope nurseries.

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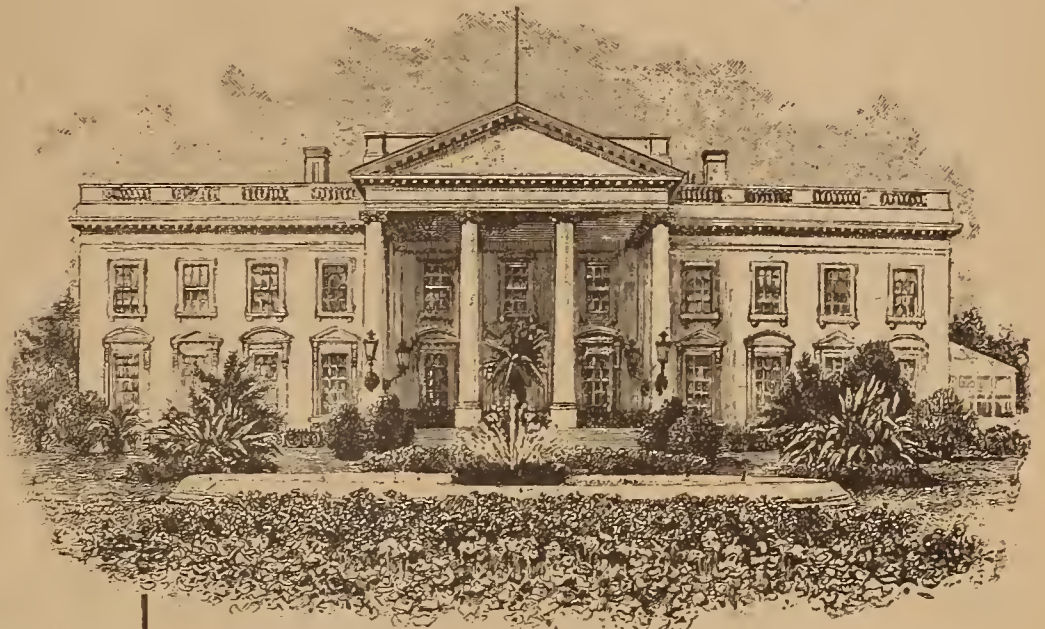
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Abraham Lincoln entered the White House March 4, 1861.

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Abraham Lincoln was born in a log hut February 12, 1809.

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tion of a summer
season 'mid the
world of fashion at
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takes off follies,
flirtations, low-
necked dressing,
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provoking style.



"Sez Josiah, 'Don't you hit Sarah agin.'" p. 185.

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FLORIDA.

Its Geography, Health, Climate, Products, Specialties, Mineral and Fisheries Graphically Depicted.

The geographical position of Florida, its peculiar shape and elevation, the proximity of the Gulf stream, and the effect of the trade-winds upon its climate, are all subjects of importance and worthy of consideration. The prevailing winds are from the southeast, and coming over that wonderful Gulf stream, spread themselves over Florida's immense pine forests, and are thus both saline and resinous, a combination giving life and health, and making this the most uniform climate in the world; and it is a fact that Florida stands to-day alone among the countries of the world in point of peculiar agricultural and horticultural resources.

Healthfulness enters into a man's thoughts of a new country quite as much as opportunity; the resources and opportunities of a country will avail little, if one is scorched by fever, wrenched by rheumatism or weakened by debility. A healthful climate is usually one of even temperature, without extremes. It is agreeable to the senses, your sleep refreshes, your waking hours are exhilarating. Florida has such a climate. Though far South, the heat of the sun is so tempered by frequent showers during June, July and August as to prevent such extreme heat as is known farther north where deadly sunstrokes are common. The records of our cities show a lower death-rate to the population than almost any other cities in the United States, notwithstanding the influx of invalids from less favored climes.

It is hard for those who have not visited Florida to picture the beauties of her climate, the cool crispness of her winter mornings, the vague, delicious haze that broods over her winter noontide, the dreamy moonlight splendor and dewy freshness of her summer nights, and the soft stillness of her long summer days, fanned by breezes from gulf and ocean, perfumed by a thousand flowers, and odorous with the breath of pines.

But though climate is an important item in the sum of our happiness, and there are others equally important, a man's first question when he has ascertained that it is possible to live healthfully in a country is, "Can I make a living there?" In answer to this we would say that if the climate of Florida is uniform, her productions are truly varied. In what is known as Middle and Western Florida are prosperous farms and dairies, where cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, tobacco and sugar-cane, with peaches, pears and grapes, as well as vegetables found farther north, are successfully and profitably cultivated; cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry are raised, and butter, cheese, beef, bacon and eggs are produced.

The raising of fiber plants, Sisal hemp, sansiveria, ramie, jute and the like is an industry yet in its infancy, but now receiving the attention of thoughtful men, and of immense possibilities in the immediate future. Factories for the manufacture of furniture from our native woods, for the making of sugar, starch for canning fruits, for decorticating fibers, for the manufacture of cigars, etc., will be the demand of the near future.

The discovery of phosphate in Florida some six or seven years ago added another to the many industries of the state. Speaking widely, we may say that phosphates have been found in every county, from Tallahassee to Charlotte Harbor.

Speaking briefly, we would say that men who desire to make comfortable homes for themselves in the finest climate in the world, who have the means to make a beginning, the resolution to face new conditions, encounter new difficulties, work out new plans and study new problems of cul-

tivation and management, will find in Florida a field for their best efforts.

The following letter will explain itself, and having come entirely unsolicited, it will be very strong evidence of the truth of every statement that has been made in these columns regarding the beautiful Tallahassee hill country:

ALTON, ILL., Jan. 16, 1896.

CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES,
Care FARM AND FIRESIDE,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:—I have been reading in the FARM AND FIRESIDE your glowing and truthful descriptions of the Tallahassee, Florida, country with a great deal of interest. With a view to locating there soon, convenient to some railroad, would like to know what the rates are for your round-trip excursions to Tallahassee, and when they will occur, besides the one going on the 4th of February. Several of my acquaintances are talking of going there, also. If it would not be asking too much, would like to know about what the population of Tallahassee is at the present time. Having spent three winters in Northwestern Florida, perhaps within sixty or seventy miles of Tallahassee, will honestly say that I do not believe there is a country within the limits of the United States where one can have as good continual health, be as happy, and accumulate wealth with as little effort, as in that country. You have not told all. The rheumatic, asthmatic, those suffering from

Mr. W. H. Pridmore, of Chicago, who has recently visited our section of the South, and from there took a trip to Southern Florida, says, in the course of his letter, as follows:

I have seen a good deal of country since I left you, and shall go as far as Orlando and on to Tampa before we return, but have not seen anything to approach the land around Tallahassee, nor seen a town that I admire as much. Before I write to the Chicago Times-Herald, I want to know if those gentlemen bought of you? I feel sure they will, as I don't know any place so desirable. I was at Gainesville yesterday. They are shipping a good deal of lettuce, but they cover it up at night.

Waiting your reply,

Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) W. H. PRIDMORE.

P. S.—It will be well to state that one of the gentlemen mentioned by Mr. Pridmore has just arranged to purchase a 440-acre tract of land.

One of the most interesting and attractive of all Southern magazines is called the Industrial Bulletin, which is published at No. 216 East Bay street, Jacksonville, Florida. The following article is taken from it, and tells particularly of our section. It is written by a man who evidently knew whereof he spoke:

MIDDLE FLORIDA.

It is of that portion of our fair state, called by all our people Middle Florida, that we most desire to write just now. It is the great agricultural section of the state,

especially the soil is adapted to the growth of both kinds of tobacco as a well-paying result, so that an industrious farmer, with a well-selected forty-acre farm well tilled, is assured of a comfortable living, and will not be stressed in any way. Besides the crops mentioned above, this beautiful section of the state produces the pear, the peach, the fig in several varieties; the grape family are at home, while the berries conspire to add delightfully to the whole. The lakes and streams abound in the most excellent fish, and the smaller game is abundant. No mortal can wish to live in a more beautiful or fertile country, with as grandly glorious a climate, than is this God-given Middle Florida section, from its eastern to its western boundary, contiguous as it is to the Gulf. It is always fanned by the winds coming from the bosom of the Gulf, on the shores of which are to be found as healthful, desirable seaside resorts as can be found anywhere, so far as nature's work is concerned, only waiting the work of art to add elegance and comfort to the natural conditions that are found there; and this demand will soon be imperative. In addition to climate, soil, fertility and profit, there is another condition over and above all—a people, intelligent, unostentatious, thoroughly hospitable and kind, and purely a Christian people, already established and at home.

This section of our blessed state, with all its inviting conditions, stands waiting the coming of a thrifty immigration from our sister states, and our people stand ready to extend a welcome with warm hearts, instructive tongues and generous sympathy.

Its glorious hills and beautiful valleys should teem with green and growing crops; its harvest-times, on every hill and in every valley, should be times of great joy and thanksgiving, for the bountiful yield of the soil to a genuine industry, and Middle Florida would become, as in the past, a tower of strength, a garden of prosperity and a home of delight to a happy, thriving population.

A. J. R.

Col. John A. Bradford says: "I have been living in Leon County for more than fifty years, my father being one of the early settlers. All kinds of stock thrive well with us. As to crops raised, I have made, corn, 40 bushels per acre; oats, 77½ per acre; sweet potatoes, 390 bushels

per acre; Irish potatoes, 305 bushels per acre; hay, 4½ tons per acre; sugar-cane syrup, 350 gallons per acre—all upon my farm. This land was fertilized. I have paid especial attention to raising milch cows for the Southeast and West Florida market, and have found ready sale, at good prices, for all I could raise."

A WESTERN FLORIDA STATEMENT VERIFIED.

Mr. C. Heber Turner, in an article published in our January 15th issue under the title of "Salient Facts about Western Florida," stated that for over forty years sections of Middle and Western Florida have been under natural cultivation without the use of any fertilizer whatever. "I do not believe there is land in any other state in the Union that has been constantly cultivated for nearly half a century without the aid of artificial fructifying elements."

The above brief extract from one of the most interesting as well as instructive articles which has been written of late years upon Southern emigration, brings to the front with forceful emphasis the extraordinary fertile character of the soil of Middle and Western Florida.

It is almost inconceivable that the soil should be successfully cultivated for a period of forty years without the use of artificial elements.

During the Civil war, this particular section of Florida was considered one of the



SCENE IN THE TALLAHASSEE HILL COUNTRY, FLORIDA.

catarrh, heart and Bright's disease, find relief and many a cure there, which I know to be a fact from personal observation and experience. Yours truly,

(Signed) ALVIN A. NEFF.

The following letter, written from Spring Hill, Florida, to Mr. O. Zetterlund, a gentleman in Chicago, Illinois, will give one man's opinion of the Clark Syndicate properties in Florida, the Farm and Fireside Colony, and the new town of Turner:

SPRING HILL, FLA., Dec. 17, 1895.

MR. O. ZETTERLUND,

Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:—I have been in Florida for about two weeks, and from what I have seen and learned during my stay here I have no reason to regret my coming here. The climate cannot very well be better, as the atmosphere is full of odor from the pine forests, mixed with sea-breezes. The soil, as far as I have seen, is good, and capable of producing all they can raise in the North, except wheat, which does not yield very heavy, although it grows.

The farmers seem to get good prices for whatever they sell, and they also have to pay good prices for what they have to buy; so it would be a good thing to get some more storekeepers here. From what I have seen, a person can have something in the ground every month in the year, as we have had but very light frost since I came here. Very truly yours,

(Signed) JOHN P. PLUESTBERG,
Turner, Florida.

and is composed chiefly of the counties lying between the Appalachicola river on the west and the Suwanee on the east, which are Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson and Madison. The writer, looking out from the roof of the capitol building, in Tallahassee, a beautiful May morning, turning to every point of the compass, taking in the delightful picturesque scene, had forced upon his mind the thought that it did seem as though the great Creator was just closing his mighty work here on the foot of the continent, and looking upon it, and seeing it was very good, laid his benedictive hand upon it, and lifting it again, left its impress there. It is as a section of the state singularly beautiful; true, there is no mountainous angularity about it, but an undulation as pretty as the sweetest poetry, and as a favored land it is altogether lovely; its hills and valleys, when considered as the work of the great Creator, leads the mind and soul to a sweet meditation of God's goodness to the children of men. This, however, is of its beauty. We desire to write specially of its desirability for homes as a real agricultural country, and above all other parts of Florida for that purpose. The soil is underlaid by a stiff red clay near the surface. It is easy of culture, and yields bountifully to the plow and hoe. Its products are short, staple cotton, tobacco, either for cigars or chewing, corn, rye, oats, and all the smaller crops necessary to domestic purposes, as well as all kinds of stock. Recent experiments have shown that in Leon County

great producing granaries of the South, and probably contributed its full share of supplies for the maintenance of the Southern armies.

A singular confirmation of the nature of this soil, as stated by Mr. Turner, has taken place since the publication of his article.

The representatives of several German societies in the West, accompanied by an expert upon questions of soil, have recently visited several sections of the Southern states, and among these the Tallahassee country. This expert, after a careful examination of the soil, states as his unqualified opinion that "it is the best in point of productive elements of any that he has examined in the Southern states." And his associates were so much impressed with the character of the soil, the climate, the people and the general environments of the Tallahassee country that they have practically concluded to establish a large German colony in that region.

The parties above referred to visited that section for the purpose of verifying statements which had appeared in our columns under auspices of what are known as the Clark Syndicate Companies, and not only expressed themselves

as having become fully satisfied that everything was exactly as had been represented, but expressed the opinion that Middle Florida presented the finest opportunities for the emigrant that had thus far been brought to their attention.

It is very gratifying to find the views and opinion expressed by Mr. Turner, our Chicago representative, in our last issue so fully and positively confirmed, and we trust that those of our readers who are interested in this coming question of Southern emigration will take occasion to visit Middle Florida for the purpose of examining and verifying for themselves the statements that have appeared from time to time in these columns.

Fruit and Vegetables All the Year.

Farming in Florida is entirely different from that of any other state in the Union. The soil is light, and does not require the arduous tillage necessary with prairie lands and more compact formations. This in itself is a wonderful saving of labor. Then, again, you have no long, dreary, severe winters during which the results from spring and summer labors are consumed. There is not a month in the year nor day in the month in which outdoor labor cannot be performed; and there is not a month in the entire twelve that the husbandman cannot have a commodity of some kind that is salable in the market. —*Florida Tourist.*

People desiring to locate in a fine climate should not fail to visit Florida.

THE ADVANTAGE OF TRUTHFUL STATEMENTS.

The average farmer who is thinking of removing to a new section of the country wants to know:

First, what is the character of the soil which he is invited to purchase, what can be raised upon it, how can he know these statements are correct?

Second, what particular products can be raised to the best advantage, what are the facilities for transportation and market?

taken to answer all of these inquiries in so plain, clear, comprehensive and truthful a way that there can be no question raised either as to their sincerity or the evidences presented.

First, they say, "We offer the names of the farmers who have lived upon the lands adjoining those offered for sale for many years, and offer letters from them showing exactly what such farmers have produced for a period of many years."

Second, they offer as corroborative testimony the statements of the highest officials

expert judges of soil, of the practical manufacturers and farmers living in the region occupied by them, and all of these fully substantiate the statements that have been made under the auspices of the Clark Syndicate Companies in offering the lands controlled by them for sale and settlement.

All of the above has appeared in clear, indisputable evidence in the columns of this paper, and nothing can be stated beyond what has been already said, save the fact that the business character of the gentlemen composing the Clark Syndicate Companies is of itself a sufficient guarantee that the above statements and verifications naturally would have been exactly as indicated in the original publications made in this paper.

If men really want to settle in the South, where the soil, the climate, the schools, the transportation facilities and everything else are all that could be wished, and all that is represented in the outset, where they can have peace and comfort, good society and every opportunity for secular and religious education, they can do no better than to place confidence in the statements of gentlemen whose business reputation is of itself sufficient to guarantee the truth of any statements made under their auspices.

A crop of sweet potatoes is easily raised by any Florida farmer who will put in his work at the right time—when the rains come—and no crop yields a better or more profitable return. They keep better than

most vegetables, may be gathered at a convenient season, always bringing a fair price. They are excellent food for man and beast, economical and very healthful, and their growth does not impoverish the land.—*Clear Water Press.*

COME ANY TIME.

Middle Florida is an agricultural country, devoted to corn, tobacco, cotton, rice, oats, sugar, syrup, fruits, nuts, grapes, wines, vegetables, and poultry, dairy and stock farming, etc. If you want a home in Florida, come and see what we have to offer. Come, anyhow; you will be delighted with our beautiful hill country and all else you see here.—*The Weekly Floridian.*



SCENES IN THE TALLAHASSEE COUNTRY, FLORIDA.

Third, what is the character of the climate, the condition of the school systems of that community or state, what are the educational facilities generally?

Fourth, how will he be received in that community, what is the society, will he be welcomed or considered an intruder?

The above are perhaps the foundational problems that each intending emigrant or purchaser of land desires to have reasonably settled before he pulls up stakes and moves himself and family into a new and strange country.

The Clark Syndicate Companies have under-

in the state, the most prominent clergymen living in their vicinity, and the best-known citizens of that region, all of whom speak in corroboration of the statements made under the auspices of this syndicate.

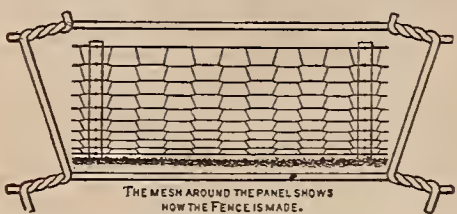
Third, they invite various well-known people to visit the section of country under their control, to call upon the persons whose letters and statements have been published, to investigate thoroughly for themselves, and then publish the letters of these inquirers, stating that they have verified for themselves the statements made by the Clark people.

Fourth, they offer the testimony of the most



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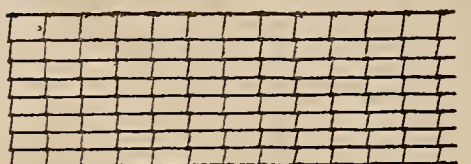
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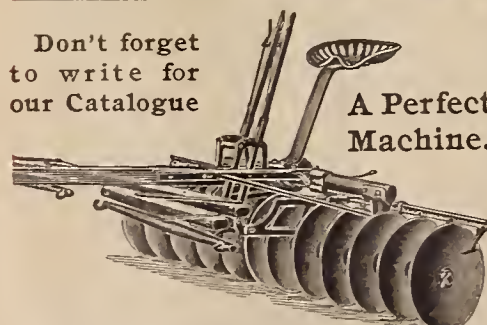
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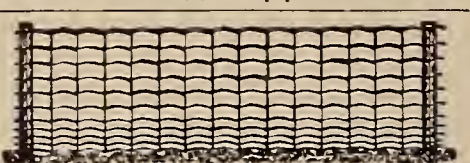
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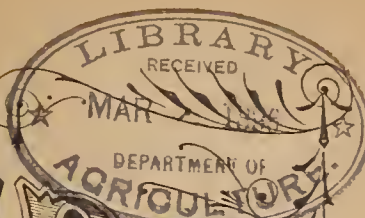
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VOL. XIX. NO. 11.

MARCH 1, 1896.

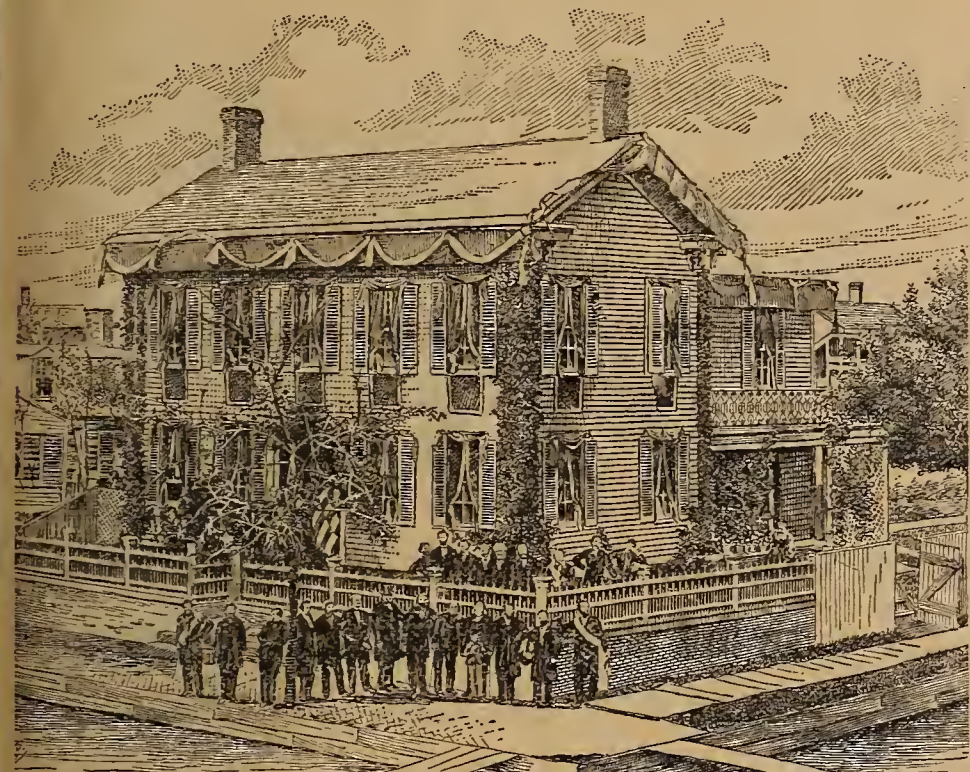
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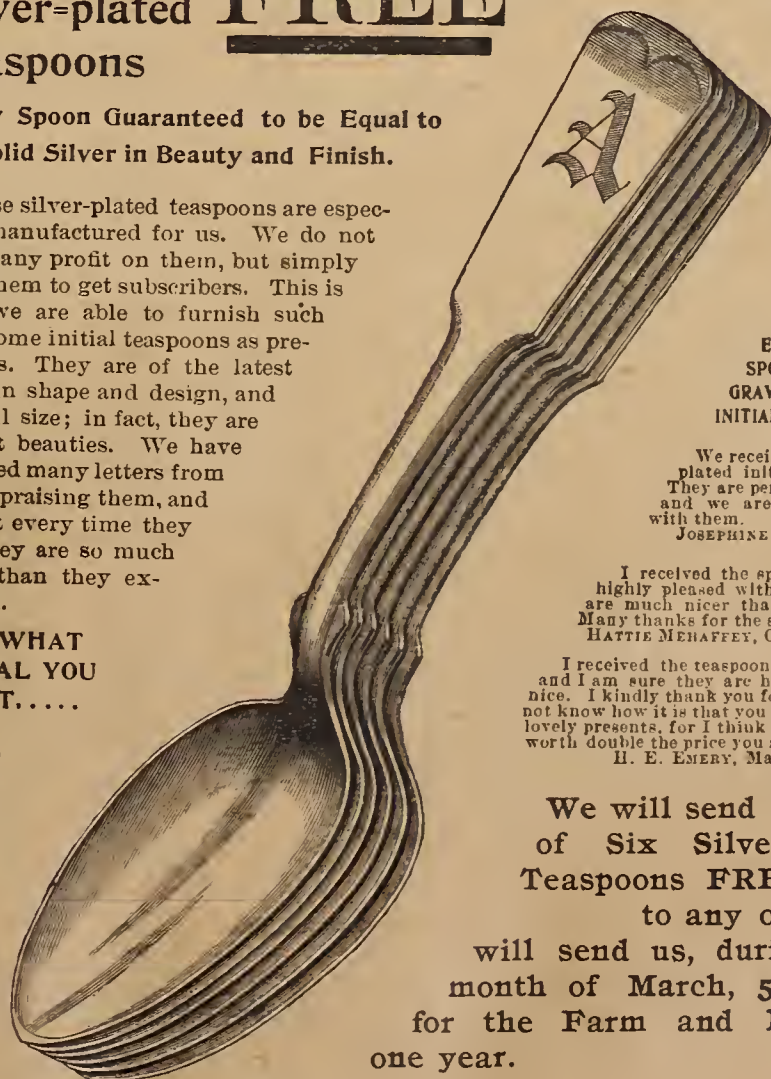
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I received the spoons, and am highly pleased with them. They are much nicer than I expected. Many thanks for the same.
HATTIE MEHAFFET, Concord, N. C.

I received the teaspoons in due time, and I am sure they are handsome and nice. I kindly thank you for them. I do not know how it is that you can give such lovely presents, for I think the magazine worth double the price you ask for it.
H. E. EMERY, Malden, Mass.

We will send this Set of Six Silver-plated Teaspoons FREE

to any one who will send us, during the month of March, 50 cents for the Farm and Fireside one year.

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R-March 1-1896-F. & F.

Show this Offer to Your Friends and Neighbors.

In order to introduce this paper, and secure trial subscriptions from the friends and neighbors of our present readers, we make the following very low offers, good if accepted during the month of March:

FOR 25 CENTS we will send this paper the remainder of this year and any one of the following premiums:

Prem. No. 35, Family of Seven Dolls (printed in six colors on cardboard);
Prem. No. 980, Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens (258 pages);
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Prem. No. 974, Talmage on Palestine; Prem. No. 985, Anecdotes of the Rebellion;
Prem. No. 999, Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow.

As we have only a few thousand of the Dickens books, we reserve the right to substitute some other book when the supply becomes exhausted. Order early.

FOR 30 CENTS we will send this paper the remainder of this year and any one of the following premiums:

Prem. No. 17, Standard Cook Book; Prem. No. 40, History Civil War;
Prem. No. 802, Pilgrim's Progress; Prem. No. 591, Silver-plated Sugar-shell, Engraved with Initial;
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FOR 35 CENTS we will send this paper the remainder of this year and any one of the following premiums:

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Prem. No. 41, Fifty Photographic Views. Magnificent engravings, each 11 by 13½ inches.

FOR 50 CENTS we will send this paper one year and any one of the following premiums:

Prem. No. 7, Life of Washington; Prem. No. 15, Life of Lincoln;
Prem. No. 34, Samantha at Saratoga; Prem. No. 30, Beauties and Wonders of Land and Sea;
Prem. No. 14, The Set of Six Silver-plated Initial Teaspoons; Any THREE Cut Paper Patterns.

Postage paid by us in each case.

See subscription blank opposite.

SAMANTHA^{AT} SARATOGA

Premium No. 34.



"Josiah turned and almost flew down the steps and into the buggy." p. 224.

Or, RACIN' AFTER FASHION.

By Josiah Allen's Wife.

Over 100,000 copies of this book were sold by agents at \$2.50 each.

"Samantha at Saratoga" was written under the inspiration of a summer season 'mid the world of fashion at Saratoga. The book takes off Follies, Flirtations, Low-necked Dressing, Dudes, Pug-dogs, Tobogganing, etc., in the author's inimitable and mirth-provoking style.

We will send the book, "Samantha at Saratoga," FREE to any one who will send us, during the month of March, 50 cents for the Farm and Fireside one year.

MAKES YOU LAUGH UNTIL THE TEARS COME



"There she wuz, all bright and hearty, a splashin' and swimmin' round in the water." p. 247.

At the above prices we cannot, of course, furnish the book in the expensive binding that was used on the agents' edition, but it is printed on good paper, contains all the reading, and is neatly bound in cardboard.

If this offer is accepted during the month of March we will send ANY TWO OF OUR PREMIUM BOOKS advertised in this issue, and the LADIES HOME COMPANION and FARM AND FIRESIDE the remainder of this year, all 4 for 75 cents.

When the offers on this page are accepted, the names cannot be counted in a club toward another premium.

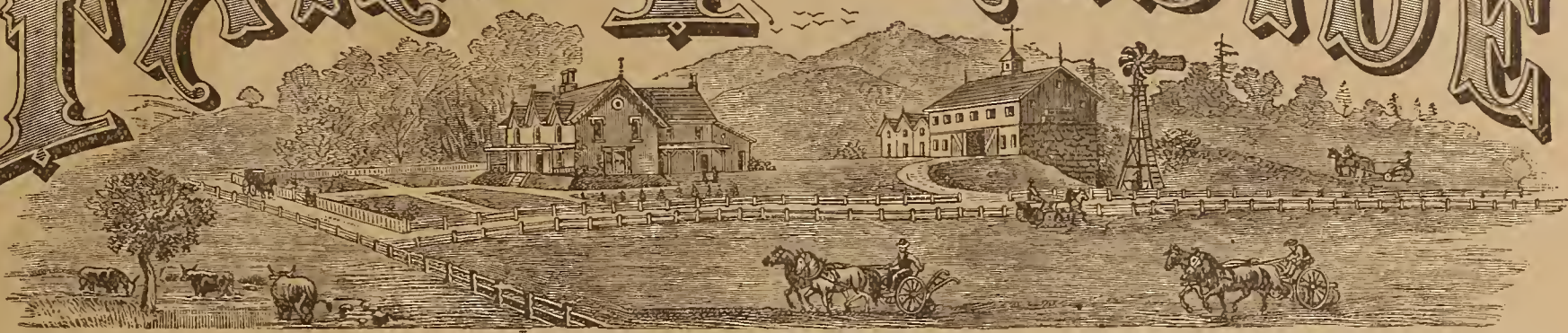
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MARCH 1, 1896.

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WITH THE VANGUARD

By a vote of 42 to 35, the Senate substituted for the bond bill passed by the House a bill providing for the free, unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. When this free-silver substitute was acted upon in the House, after several days' discussion, it was defeated by a vote of 215 to 90. The majority against free silver was larger than the vote for it. If straws tell which way the wind blows, surely a load like this vote indicates beyond the shadow of a doubt the fate of all free-silver bills in the present Congress. In 1890 a free-coinage silver bill passed the Senate by a majority of 19; it was defeated in the House by only 17 votes. A comparison shows how great a change has taken place in Congress. The Senate majority in favor of free silver has been reduced from 19 to 7, and the House majority against it has been increased from 17 to 125.

The government bond sale for \$100,000,000 of gold brought out 4,640 bids, aggregating over \$560,000,000. This enormous oversubscription for the bonds was a demonstration of confidence in the financial stability and integrity of the country truly remarkable under the extraordinary combination of conditions that existed. In this respect the loan was an unqualified success, and has had a good effect on business and greatly strengthened our credit abroad. The loans will net an average rate of interest of 3½ per cent. The bids for the bonds showed that there is an enormous volume of money in the country seeking a safe investment at a low rate of interest. The public sale of \$100,000,000 of 30-year 4-per-cent bonds at 111 is a severe condemnation of the bond transaction of one year ago, when \$62,300,000 of the same kind of bonds, under more favorable con-

ditions, were sold privately by the government to the Morgau syndicate for only 104½.

As a means of replenishing the \$100,000,000 gold-reserve fund in the treasury, this bond sale, in all probability, will prove to be only a temporary success. The addition of \$111,000,000 of gold to the \$44,000,000 on hand would place the reserve at \$155,000,000, but owing to heavy withdrawals it is doubtful if it will be raised to much over \$100,000,000. Gold is taken out on presentation of legal-tenders for redemption and immediately returned in payment for the bonds. The expenditures of the government being larger than its receipts, the redeemed legal-tenders will be paid out in the ordinary course of business, and can be used over again for the purpose of depleting the gold reserve and forcing more bond issues. The net result of this "endless-chain" process is, practically, the sale of government bonds for legal-tenders.

There is now pending in the Ohio legislature a bill to prevent fraud in the sale of woolen, shoddy and cotton goods. This bill provides that cloth fabric of any kind offered for sale, in the form of clothing, ready-made or otherwise, shall be plainly labeled so as to show the true composition of said article or fabric, whether wool, shoddy, cotton, or, if a mixture, the proportion of each ingredient used in the composition of the fabric or article. As this bill is in line with the pure-food laws of Ohio, it is provided that the duties of the dairy and food commissioner shall be extended to cover violations of the act, and that the inspection and marking of cloth fabrics shall be placed under his charge.

The annual consumption of shoddy in the United States is estimated to be over 100,000,000 pounds. As one pound of shoddy takes the place of three of unwashed wool, the whole amount used supplants the wool from 40,000,000 sheep, seriously injuring one of the leading industries of the country. It is undeniable that most of this shoddy reaches the backs of the wearers under false pretenses. Against "fraud in the sale" is this bill aimed. There is a proper use of clean shoddy in the manufacture of cloth fabrics. With that use this measure cannot interfere in the least. It contains no provisions against the sale of goods even largely composed of shoddy. It simply provides that all goods shall be sold for what they are. Its object is the protection of the purchaser, by having all cloth fabrics correctly

labeled so that he can know what he is buying, and not be defrauded by having shoddy goods palmed off on him as genuine woolen, cotton or mixed goods, and that, too, at as high prices as he ought to pay for the genuine article. This bill is sound in principle, and ought to pass.

By his wonderful discovery of a new form of radiant energy, affecting sensitive plates and making shadow photographs of objects invisible to the eye, Dr. Roentgen has opened up a new field of knowledge and placed himself in the front rank of famous men of the age. His remarkable experiments have been repeated by scientific men everywhere, and the new line of investigation promises brilliant results. Already his discovery has been successfully applied in surgery, for the purpose of locating bullets, needles and other foreign bodies, and defining fractures of bones, in the human body.

"The cardinal facts observed by Prof. Roentgen," says the London Times, "are susceptible of plain and easy statement. The appearance of a high vacuum-tube through which an electric discharge is passing is tolerably familiar. It emits a beautiful phosphorescent light, varied by brushes of intenser luminosity at the electrodes. If we inclose the whole apparatus in a wooden box, or cover it completely with blackened paper, there is an end of the luminous phenomena so far as the observer is concerned. Prof. Roentgen, however, following out the beautiful experiments by which Lenard showed the power of cathode rays to pass through aluminum, has discovered that after the whole of the light is thus cut off some force or energy remains—something which passes freely



DR. WILHELM CONRAD ROENTGEN.

through the wooden box, and is capable of causing fluorescence in various substances, notably in platinumcyanide of barium, even at distances of a meter or two. The interesting question—a question which indefinite repetitions of the photographic experiment do nothing to solve—is, 'What is the unknown force which thus persists after the light of the vacuum-tube is completely cut off by an opaque screen?' It is not light in the ordinary sense, for it does not affect the eye. Nor is it light in the more extended sense sometimes given to the word in order to describe vibrations or rays which, though invisible, are obviously of the same nature as visible rays. When we have reached the most rapid vibrations that the ear can recognize

as a musical tone, we can double or quadruple their rapidity, and describe them as sound which is inaudible merely because the range of our hearing is limited. In the same way we may speak of invisible light, meaning a manifestation of the force that gives us the sensation of light, which is either above or below the rapidity of vibration that falls within the range of the human eye. We identify these inaudible or invisible vibrations by physical tests.

"But Prof. Roentgen's rays are not exactly light, even in this sense. They do not behave as light behaves, whether visible or invisible. They are not susceptible of refraction, or diffraction, or concentration by a lens, or reflection by ordinary reflecting surfaces. That they pass through opaque substances is perhaps less important, because we already have examples of selective transparency to light vibrations, and this may be only another, though unusually striking one. It seems probable, however, that these new rays are intercepted by bodies mainly in proportion to their density, in which case the selection differs in kind from what we are familiar with. Two things they have in common with ordinary light—they can produce fluorescence, and they can cause chemical changes in the sensitive film on a photographic plate. In the latter respect their action is weak, long exposures being necessary to obtain the effect. But it must be remembered that the conditions are very unfavorable, because the screens used to shut off the light of the vacuum-tube, though permeable by the new rays, yet offer great resistance to their passage. The rays pass through wood, but not through an indefinite thickness of wood. The grain of the wood employed is visible in the photographs, showing varying resistances.

"So impressed is Prof. Roentgen with the differences between these X rays, as he calls them for the sake of brevity, and ordinary light, that he suggests, though in the most cautious manner, the possibility that they are in fact physically dissimilar, and lie altogether outside of the phenomena covered by the undulatory theory of light."

By birth, Dr. Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen is a Hollander. He studied in Zurich. He has taught mathematics and physics in several German universities, and is the author of several works on heat, light and electricity. Even before the scientific importance of his great discovery is appreciated it has been applied practically.

For reasons foreign to the subject, Congress has passed a bill to compel the secretary of agriculture to resurrect the free-seed humbug. Whatever objections members of Congress may have to Secretary Morton's method of abolishing it, the fact remains that this free-seed business is useless and ridiculous. It no longer serves any useful purpose. It no longer promotes the general interest of agriculture and horticulture. It is a waste of public money. It is utterly indefensible. The agricultural press, the experiment stations, farmers' organizations and all thinking farmers, without an exception as far as we know, favor the abolishment of free-seed distribution by the Department of Agriculture.

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The Advertisers in this Paper.

We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Effects of Fungicides Upon the Soil.

Sometimes we feel a little timid about the free use of fungicides and perhaps insecticides, for fear of possible injurious effects upon the soil. Will not the repeated applications of copper sulphate (on potatoes, for instance) and of Paris green have a tendency to poison the soil? The question may be natural; yet the true answer would soon reassure us. In a new work on "The Spraying of Plants," by Prof. Lodeman, of Cornell University, I find some remarks touching upon this subject.

Prof. Lodeman quotes Prof. Beach (*Country Gentleman*, 1892), as follows: "Former analyses of unsprayed top soils of the station farm have shown no trace of copper in their composition. Recent analyses of top soils taken from an old potato-field which has received many applications of Paris green (an aceto-arsenite of copper), show from three thousandths to three and one third ten thousandths of one per cent of metallic copper. Analyses of top soils from a portion of the same field to which Bordeaux mixture was applied last season for the potato-blight show four ten thousandths of one per cent of metallic copper, equal to about sixteen ten thousandths of one per cent in the form of copper sulphate. English writers frequently speak of using from twenty-two to thirty-two pounds of copper sulphate per acre in one season's application of Bordeaux mixture for potato-blight. To impregnate such soil as that which was used in the above analysis to the depth of one foot with one per cent of copper sulphate would require about 32,625 pounds of the sulphate, which, if applied at the rate of thirty pounds a year, would require in its application nearly 1,100 years, provided that none of it escaped in drainage." The book also cites various other experiments and calculations, made both in this country and in Europe, and says that the only conclusion to be drawn from these extracts is that proper applications of insecticides and fungicides will apparently never cause any appreciable injury either to the roots of the plants or to the soil.

We may take it for granted, too, that nature always has a way to neutralize and thus render harmless the various kinds of poison mixed into the soil. There is material enough in the soil of an acre of land, one foot in depth, to manufacture all the poison needed for killing every person on the face of the earth. And yet that poisonous material, in its present shape, is entirely inert and harmless. Possibly we may apply two or three pounds of Paris green to an acre of potatoes in one season. But when that quantity is evenly distributed through the soil, what would it amount to? Who could discover its presence except by one of the most delicate tests of chemistry? Even if the quantity were ten or twenty pounds, what harm could it do if evenly distributed? I have mixed copper carbonate in powder with the soil in pots, so that the mixture appeared decidedly green, and yet plants grew well in it. I have applied copper sulphate (granulated) to potatoes, both in the drills and broadcast, at the rate of from thirty pounds to several times that quantity per acre without diminishing the yield. No, we should not get scared. The light applications of poisonous chemicals as we make them in spraying for diseases and insects will do no harm to the soil or to roots of plants.

Flea-beetle and Potato-blight.

This so-called "early" blight or leaf-spot of the potato, which has done so much injury in recent years, and which always attacks the plants when already weakened by age or other causes, is not likely to be brought under full control until we have learned to control the flea-beetle. This insect comes first, eating holes into the leaves, and weakening the whole plant, so that it falls an easy prey to the blight. This is the usual course of events. Unfortunately, we have not yet found a remedy that promises absolute relief. The book already mentioned, "The Spraying of Plants," says: "The beetles appear early in spring, and eat out little cavities in the tender foliage of young plants, often to such an extent that the plants are ruined. If the work of the beetles does not destroy the crop, the injured parts afford conditions suitable to the growth of certain fungi, and these two parasites may succeed in accomplishing that which each alone could not have done. There appear to be several broods of the beetles each season. No uniformly effective remedies are known. Good results have been obtained by dusting the young plants while wet very freely with tobacco dust. Arsenites have also been recommended, as well as lime, ashes, plaster and kerosene emulsion. Bordeaux mixture and soap has given good results in certain cases when thoroughly applied." I am afraid, however, that none of these remedies will help us much when the beetles are present in large numbers; and they usually are with us. To use tobacco dust freely enough to drive the beetles out of a one-acre lot of potatoes would entail a big expense. Cabbage and cauliflower plants infested with flea-beetles I have often been able to save and to keep at least reasonably free from the pest for a reasonable length of time, by throwing a handful of tobacco dust into the heart of each plant. But in this case, blight does not attack the plants even when weakened by the insects, as in the case of potatoes. Who is going to give us the "infallible" remedy for the flea-beetle?

How to Grow Ginseng.

Mr. Harlan P. Kelsey, of North Carolina, has made quite a specialty of ginseng. In a circular he gives the following instructions how to grow it: "Select a cool, moist piece of ground, preferably where there is natural loam, or where the ground is loose and rich. Well-rotted stable manure is good for bringing up garden soil to a proper condition, as is also leaf-mold, rotted sods, etc. Sandy soil, if rich and moist, is not objectionable, but rather desirable. Plant in rows eight inches apart, four inches apart in the row, leaving an alley two feet wide every sixth row, thus making beds nearly eight feet wide, each with six long rows to the bed. Over these beds you can erect artificial shade by making lath covers with four-foot laths, one inch apart, on frames eight feet long and four feet wide, made out of two-inch strips one and one fourth of an inch thick; then put in posts along each side of the beds—five feet high—to which nail two-inch strips to support the lath frame. These

frames will last for many years, and can be taken in in winter. If natural shade is provided under trees, frames, of course, are not needed; but it will always pay to have some shade that will keep the ground moist. Cultivation under the frames can thus be prosecuted without disturbing the shade. Keep the plants free of weeds, and cultivate the same as for any garden crop." For larger plantations Mr. Kelsey advises to plant eight or ten inches apart in the row, with rows twenty inches apart, every third row being some quick-growing summer crop, such as corn, to supply the requisite shade. It may do well enough for people who have the right kind of land and opportunities to make a trial on a moderate scale with this new "mooney crop." But don't expect to get quick returns. It takes at least four, and more likely six, years to get a crop ready for market.

Fighting Wireworms.

From the New Jersey experiment station, a few years ago, came the glad tidings that kainite, applied to the soil, was found to be an effective remedy for wireworms. I had much confidence in this remedy for awhile, because my garden-patches to which various kinds of potash salts and nitrate of soda, etc., had been applied year after year became gradually cleared from wireworms, grubs, maggots, etc. But the story told by the New Jersey experimenters proved too good to be true. Prof. M. V. Slingerland (Cornell University) reports in a recent bulletin (No. 107)



KAfir-CORN.

the results of investigations made by him since 1889, and says he has not been able to destroy wireworms by any application of chemicals with any degree of satisfactory success. Fall plowing is the treatment he recommends. "Such a short rotation of crops as will include a period of thorough cultivation in the fall will prove the best method of fighting these pests yet suggested." Well, this is something, anyway.

Potato Fertilizers.

The bulletin of the New York experiment station, at Geneva, on the "Composition and Use of Fertilizers," recommends for the potato crop the following amounts of plant-foods per acre; namely, nitrogen, 30 to 60 pounds; available phosphoric acid, 40 to 80 pounds; potash, 65 to 130 pounds. The proper amount of nitrogen will be found in 180 to 360 pounds nitrate of soda, or in 150 to 300 pounds sulphate of ammonia, or in 300 to 600 pounds dried blood. For the available phosphate acid apply 400 to 800 pounds of bone-meal, or 275 to 550 pounds dissolved bone, or 325 to 650 pounds dissolved rock. The potash may be furnished in 130 to 260 pounds of muriate, or 130 to 260 pounds of sulphate, or in 520 to 1,040 pounds of kainite. The bulletin adds the following suggestions: "The use of stable manure appears to favor the growth of potato-scab. When used, stable manure should be applied to a preceding crop. Wood ashes are also reported to favor the attack of the scab. It is commonly held that sulphate of potash produces potatoes

of better quality than does muriate. The testimony on this point is conflicting."

Cheap Feeding.

I am short of hay. If I had lots of it, I think I would sell most of it. At present it has a greater selling than feeding value. Good hay sells quickly at \$18 or \$20, and perhaps more, per ton. I have been feeding to horse and cattle only limited quantities of coarse stuff, in the shape of straw and corn stover, but made up for it in grain. I mix at the rate of two bags of rye, four bags of oats, four bags of corn in the cob, and have all this ground together. Then I mix this with half a ton of bran and two hundred pounds of oil-meal, and I have a most excellent mixture to feed with straw or corn stover. I cut the coarse fodder, moisten it, and mix it with meal. I will say that I have never fed my stock in a cheaper way, and never had them in better condition. Cows seem to do especially and remarkably well. I give much credit to the oil-meal (old process; cost, \$18 to \$20 per ton in Buffalo) for fitting the cows for the ordeal of parturition and milk production.

T. GREINER.

KAfir-CORN.

Never has there been such interest in forage plants and the care of fodder, doubtless caused by the extreme dry weather in various sections for the past few years. But there is also a growing need for more forage, and the gradual discovery that corn fodder and the forage plants are much more valuable than heretofore supposed.

Kafir-corn is not a corn, but a sorghum, but differing from the sweet sorghum in having a short stalk with much thicker and broader leaves and much heavier seed-heads. So far as I know, the extremes of yield in seed has been five to eighty bushels, though experimental plots have shown at the rate of 112 bushels per acre; but twenty to thirty bushels is certainly a fair crop. Just how to grow to get the heaviest yield of seed is not fully known yet, but as practised now, I think it is exaggeration to place the yield above that of corn, except in sections where corn will not make a good crop. For instance, in this territory, where corn cannot be depended upon every year, Kafir-corn will outyield it perhaps one fourth, on the whole, yet this statement will not apply to the best years and best sections of the territory where corn will readily make fifty to eighty bushels per acre.

It is grown here very extensively, and while not equal to the best corn, yet it is a much surer crop to plant for any section where there is a liability to long periods of dry weather. In Kansas the area devoted to it has doubled each year for the last three, and I have good reports from it all through the South. As far north as central Ohio it is doing well, and is likely to be grown in connection with corn. North of that, even to British Columbia, there are good reports, but also some which say it will not pay to raise compared with corn, so further testing is needed. Without going into details, I would say the planting and cultivating is similar to that of common corn, except that as it is a small seed, it should not be planted so deep, and as it does not grow so tall, and does not require as much moisture, the rows can be one fourth closer, and three times as many stalks can grow in a row. Planting in a small way can be done by hand or a hand-planter, or with a one-horse planter or drill. On a large scale, use the common two-horse corn-planter, or the common grain-drill, closing up the holes in the plates to the right size for dropping one seed every six to eight inches, or three to five seed every eighteen to twenty-four inches, varying to suit the soil and climate. Where grain-drill is used, of course, part of the openings have to be closed entirely.

In price the seed is selling for a little less than corn. I notice at one point in the territory where corn is quoted at nineteen cents, Kafir is quoted at fifteen cents per bushel. In this section it is worth twenty to twenty-five cents per bushel. There are three kinds in common cultivation—Black Chat, Red and White—and for this section are valued in the order named.

Oklahoma.

J. M. RICE.

Our farm.

THE SOUTHERN OR RIBBON CANE.

THE new-comer from the states north of where cotton can be successfully grown will find in the ribbon cane of the South a source for the production of a syrup that is almost as delicious as that made from the sap of the sugar-maple.

Even in southeastern North Carolina there is scarcely a branch bottom or choice piece of warm, rich land that will not produce 250 to 350 gallons per acre, and near the Gulf a yield of 500 gallons of rich, heavy syrup is common, which sells readily at fifty to seventy-five cents per gallon. The demand for it in the cotton-growing districts exceeds the supply, especially where cotton-growing is not supplemented by the production of a proper proportion of home supplies. The demand for pure ribbon-cane syrup in the North, where the best samples have been tested, is rapidly increasing. A friend of the writer, now living in South Florida, has put up his entire crop in quart and two-quart glass jars, and expects to realize about \$400 per acre as the gross receipts.

and can be economically cultivated where the mean temperature is as low as 66°, and even lower in well-sheltered localities, where the soil is deep, black and rich.

Summerville, S. C.

J. W., JR.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

THE TIME TO PLOW.—I believe that it is best to break sod land intended for a spring crop as early in the spring as the soil will permit. We are often advised to let the sod stand as late in the spring as possible, in order that a green growth may be obtained for turning under, and, theoretically, this seems good advice, but in practice I have not found it such. It is true that the growth of grass or clover makes grand food for the young plants, and it is also true that a fresh decaying sod warms up the soil, but the disadvantages of late plowing are greater than the advantages. I shall name only two, which seem to me sufficient: First, a wet spell of weather may prevent plowing until the proper time for planting is past—a not infrequent occurrence—and teams are crowded in the warm weather of late spring, much to their injury. The second, and far more serious, objection to late breaking of sod land is that such land is less retentive of moisture, unless heavy and beating rains fall after the plowing and preparing of the land has been done. The heaviest spring rains are

best to plow any soil as deep as is often urged. Formerly, I broke clover sod for potatoes fully eight to nine inches deep, but now find that seven suits me better, and for corn regard six as sufficient in my soil. The reasons for the change, briefly stated, are these: No land should be broken much deeper than it can be pulverized with our best implements; and if the supply of humus in the soil is small, the sod should be thoroughly distributed and kept near the surface, where most needed.

WHAT IS A GOOD SEED-BED?—The idea that a fine surface makes a good seed-bed is wholly wrong. We are most interested in the condition of the soil next the subsoil. It is through this that the moisture must rise. When a sod is broken eight or more inches deep, it is impossible to tear into pieces the portion that rests upon the bottom of the furrow. Of course, we try to leave the sod on edge as much as possible, but a portion of it is below the reach of a disk harrow when the plowing is deep. I use a 20-inch disk, and yet cannot cut more than five to six inches of earth. The depth appears to be greater as the soil is loose, but if the breaking has been seven inches deep, I fail to stir the lower two inches.

Much land is deficient in humus. It is better to distribute the vegetable matter in

to be disinfected previous to lauding upon these shores, they were frequently the medium of conveyance of smallpox and other infectious diseases to our citizens. Our manufacturers grind the rags up fine, and, by some process best known to themselves, inject the shoddy into other cloth to give it "body" and weight, and to make cotton cloth feel and appear like woolen.

It is a base fraud from its inception until it scatters out of people's clothing, as they walk the streets or are about their daily duties. It is used mostly in the cheaper grades of clothing cloth; but there is no certainty that it is not employed to give body to the highest grades made in this country. Farmers and laborers suffer most from the fraud, as they usually wear the cheaper grades of clothing. After wearing a few days, the shoddy drops out, leaving the garment only a skeleton of its original self. When the farmer's son is at his own wedding, he does not know but that he is sprinkling his father-in-law's "best carpet" with shoddy as with black pepper from a pepper-box. No other country in the world suffers the existence of such a fraud. We can get rid of the shoddy fraud by each one invoking the aid of his congressman to that effect. GALEN WILSON.

THE FARMER'S HANDY WAGON.

The accompanying cut shows one of the many practical uses of a low-down wagon on the farm. Being only thirty inches high, an immense amount of labor is saved in loading it. Its six-inch-tire wheels roll over the ground, do not cut ruts, make roads instead of destroying them, and allow the wagon to be used for heavy hauling early in the spring, or after a rain. The fore wheels being under the broad platform, the wagon can be turned around in a very small space, making it very handy in and around the barn in small barn-yards or lanes. Although lighter than an ordinary wagon, it is strong enough for the heaviest loads that can be pulled by a team.



THE FARMER'S HANDY WAGON.

The ribbon cane, unlike that of the Northern Amber, Early Orange or other improved varieties of sorghum, is not usually grown from the seed, but from the canes, or stalks, which are laid horizontally in furrows, which are usually five to six feet apart. The usual method of planting is to lay the canes straight in the bottom of the furrow, and lap the butt of each cane back of the top of the preceding one six or eight inches. The furrow is then filled by back-furrowing. If the soil is not rich, cotton-seed compost or well-rotted stable manure are added to it, as the soil should be made rich and warm to produce a paying crop.

In the sugar-producing districts the cane is usually planted in the fall, but toward the northern limit of cotton production in February or early in March. The upright canes spring from the joints, as shown in the accompanying cut. The after-cultiva-

usually past by May, and no mechanical means will solidify the sod in the bottom of the furrow so that moisture can rise as will soaking rains. Without such rains the top soil dries out too readily in a droughty season, and the earliest plowed land is surest of getting good rains after the breaking. I know that we incline to think we do not want the rains in the spring, and often they cause extra work with disk or spring-tooth harrow in fitting the soil for planting, but these rains do a world of good in providing moisture in the earth, and in closing the cavities in the bottom of furrows, so that capillary action of the soil is possible.

LATE PLOWING MAY DO WELL.—In a wet season this objection does not hold, but we suffer more frequently from drought than from excessive moisture in midsummer, when crops require much water. If the season be wet, the late-plowed soil will give the best results, as the ground does not pack so hard as when plowed early, and the loose soil can absorb more water without becoming too wet for tillage. In a season of average rainfall, I can get better results from early-plowed land, especially if it has good natural or artificial drainage.

DEPTH OF PLOWING.—We are usually advised to "plow deep" by contributors to farm journals, and this is supposed to be safe and "orthodox" advice. It may be good advice for our individual cases, and it may not. The word "deep" is a relative term. I have some experience with soils that are naturally not over five inches deep, and also with soils that are deeper than a breaking-plow can go. In the case of the shallow soil, I agree that a gradual deepening is desirable, but do not find it

a sod through the top six or seven inches of the land than to bring up a large amount of clay or sand, and bury the sod beneath. I am aware that a deeply stirred soil is capable of storing up the most moisture, and deep soils are desirable when they can be gotten without detriment to the crop to be planted, but for the sake of thorough tilth of a sod as deep as necessary, and for the sake of having the humus in the soil as near the surface as is necessary for best results, I set my plow so as to cut a furrow not over seven inches deep for potatoes, and not over six for corn.

DAVID.

PICKED POINTS.

This nation is almost a century and a quarter of age, yet in some respects it is not out of its swaddling-clothes; it is an infant of very tender age. It is as good a sheep country as there is on the globe. The soil is fertile, the climate salubrious, and land can be had almost for the asking, and the people are notoriously enterprising; still, they grow much less wool than they use. Not only this, but in addition to importing wool and woolen goods enough to upset our finances, more than seventeen million pounds of woolen rags are also imported annually to adulterate the wool with shoddy.

If our people knew generally where and how these rags are obtained and how used, a vigorous protest would be raised throughout the land that would be heard and heeded in the halls of Congress. These rags are gathered in the slums of European towns and cities, principally those of Italy. They are cast off of the backs of Dagos in their squalid quarters, and in hospitals of both contagious and uncontagious diseases. Before our government required these rags

Didn't Live

Merely Existed

Raised From Misery and Melancholy by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

To all who are in depths of despair, the following letter may come as a beacon light pointing the way to health and safety. Truly, it is not what we say, but what Hood's Sarsaparilla does, that tells the story. Just read the voluntary statement of Mr. Owen:

"For 6 or 7 years of my life I did not live—I merely existed. I was in a deplorable condition, suffering from a complication of evils. I was so costive that a week, or sometimes two weeks, would pass without a movement of the bowels. I had no appetite. Had become so

Melancholy

that I was scarcely off the farm in six years. I even contemplated making an end to my miserable existence.

"This is the stage where a man becomes disgusted with doctors and medicines of all kinds. If this should reach the eye of any such, it is written in the hope that just such persons will read it, believe it and be benefited by it. A friend had half a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla, and persuaded me to take it with some of Hood's Pills. I experienced so much benefit from it I took two bottles more, and I am

Cured

sound and well. I am 61 years of age, but feel thirty years younger. I truly believe Hood's Sarsaparilla was sent as a means to heal my body. I cannot say too much for Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills." J. W. OWEN, Henderson, Mercer Co., Pa.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1.

Hood's Pills cure Liver Ills; easy to take, easy to operate. 25c.



tion is much like that of any other hoed crop, and is usually finished by throwing up a furrow to the cane, so as to cover small weeds and other trash to the depth of two or three inches. The ribbon cane flourishes best where the mean temperature is from 75° to 77° Fahrenheit, but it thrives

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

THE NEW STRAWBERRY CULTURE.—At the last meeting of the Western New York Horticultural Society, Mr. L. J. Farmer, a strawberry specialist, explained his new system of managing strawberries. His plantations, under ordinary circumstances, suffer much from leaf-blight. In this he is only in the same fix as thousands of other strawberry-growers, but he makes provisions for heading off the disease. Instead of setting the plants as early in spring as possible, in the more or less carefully prepared patch, as is usually done, he first trenches them in, rather closely together, leaving them there until late in May or first of June—altogether say six weeks, during which period he can give them frequent sprayings with the Bordeaux mixture, and thus secure comparative immunity from the blight. The job of trenching in is done in the simplest manner by plowing a furrow and setting the plants to the landside, about twelve plants to the running foot, then covering with the hoe.

During all this time the land intended for the strawberry-patch may be plowed, harrowed and reharrowed, say once a week, until all the weed-seeds near the surface have germinated and have been killed. In short, the early cultivation of the patch may be given in the cheapest and yet most thorough manner. Then, on or before the first of June, the plants, now well supplied with fibrous roots, are taken up, each with a ball of earth attached to the roots, and set out at the usual distance in the permanent patch.

STRAWBERRIES PROFITABLE.—But no matter whether you grow your strawberries in this new way or after the old approved fashion, if you will only plant the right kinds and take good care of them, the crop can be made one of the most profitable of all fruit and garden crops. Strawberries need high manuring and high cultivation. The half rations of manure and the half cultivation that are usually and grudgingly accorded to them will only give a half crop of inferior berries. The money is in full crops of well-developed fruit. The growers hereabouts and all over the country apply some stable manure, set the plants, run through the patch a few times with the cultivator, and soon after midsummer cease all work among the berries and let the plants have their own way. In the fall the ground is crusted over and covered with plenty of small weeds, and the young runner plants, instead of being stimulated into healthy and strong growth, have hard work to just make a few roots and live. It is folly to expect much from patches thus treated. The cultivator should be kept going until fall. We also use plenty of wood ashes on all our small fruits, and if we don't have wood ashes we use muriate of potash; too much of these fertilizers can hardly be used for strawberries. It is true that even the indifferent grower, with his careless methods, gets far better returns from his strawberry-patch than from any of his other crops, and that he is satisfied that "strawberries pay." Still, the ordinary returns can easily be doubled and trebled with a little more attention to manuring and cultivation.

STRAWBERRY VARIETIES.—The great number of new varieties which have been introduced during the last few years is bewildering; not only bewildering, but actually scaring us out of one of our favorite pastimes; namely, the testing of novelties. To try them all is too big a task for one that has a good deal of that work to do anyway, and to test only a few of them is hardly worth the trouble. It would puzzle me to name the best one or two varieties. I don't know which are the best ones. Mr. Farmer said that if restricted to one variety, he would plant Parker Earle. Now, this sort, perhaps, would do for him under his conditions of soil and management, etc. But I have tried it, and although I found it one of the best flavored sorts, it was not prolific enough to please me, under the conditions with which it was surrounded at Woodbanks. But while I could not say which strawberry is the best, I can name several that I know are reliable and usually satisfactory almost

everywhere. One of them is Bubach (No. 5), the other is Haverland. The characteristic shape and general appearance of the Haverland is shown in the accompanying illustration.

Many of the berries are a great deal larger than might be inferred from the illustration. We find this variety enormously productive, and ripening from early to late, thus extending over a considerable period. Often the latest berries are as



large as the earlier ones. This strawberry will do well enough for a near or local market. That is also the case with the Bubach. Both varieties are pistillates, and need some perfect-flowering variety, like Beder Wood, Lovett, or even the old Wilson, near them to furnish the needed pollen. With all the newer introductions, and many of them so highly lauded by interested and non-interested parties, we do not feel that we can get along without Bubach and Haverland. T. GREINER.

TREE-PROTECTORS.

For more than twenty years I have been using tree-protectors of some kind, and have learned some things that may be of benefit to others. After having used all the washes, paints and "rubs" known to the profession, I am satisfied of one thing—that there is no application absolutely reliable that is not injurious to the tree. I have tried lard and sulphur, axle-grease, the flesh of rabbit, water and crude carbolic acid, lime and carbolic acid, yellow ochre and carbolic acid, with several others, including coal-tar and lime. The latter, if properly prepared, is probably the best in the list; but whoever uses it had better sleep with one eye open.

As to wrappings, their name is legion. Corn-stalks are good, and will last several years, with some attention, if cut with a slant, pushed into the ground, and tied with a wire at the top. Crab-grass, twisted and wound around the trunks, and rags, also, have been used. The best of all is screen-wire. Five years ago I bought three thousand wire wrappers, at a cost of about fifty dollars. They are still doing service, without having been removed or readjusted. Most of the trees show a gap now, so I am convinced that about five years is the limit of usefulness for a width of seven inches. I bought the wire by the bolt, eighteen inches wide, and had it cut at the tinners, on a pipe-cutter, into sections of seven inches. Then I borrowed of the tinner a tool they call a gutter-beater, and ran each piece through it, which formed a scroll about one inch in diameter and eighteen inches in length. These were simply snapped around the tree. Of these three thousand trees I have lost none by rabbits, borers or mice. E. C. RICE.

Kansas.

THE NEW WOMAN.

IDEALS REGARDING WOMEN HAVE CHANGED—THE ATHLETIC WOMAN REIGNS—WHICH MAKES THE BEST WIFE, THE RICHEST GIRL, OR THE DELICATE, "CLINGING VINE?"

Not so very long ago, the ideal woman was the helpless, strengthless creature, who must be protected from the faintest breath of air, and from the slightest exertion. She was beautifully and confidently dependent upon the manly "oak" to which she clung. She passed from an utter dependence upon her father and brothers to an equally utter dependence upon a husband. She had little self-reliance, and still less ability to take care of herself. And now, of late years, there has been a change—and we hear of a "New Woman."

That there actually is a "New Woman," there can be no doubt. Her manner of clothing herself has really very little to do with the case. Her newness consists rather in a new mind and a new body than in new

clothes. She is distinctly able to take care of herself. A great many of them make their own living—go where they please—when they please, and how they please. The New Woman is much more independent than her predecessors. She has found new objects in life to take the place of the only one possessed by the woman of a few years ago—the object of matrimony. Thirty years ago, a girl of over twenty was looked upon as something of an old maid. Nowadays a woman never gets so old that she is an old maid. The term is obsolete. The New Woman marries, if she pleases—and if the right man presents himself. She is able to take care of herself. She doesn't have to lean on anybody. She doesn't have to depend on anybody for her living. She can make that for herself. Quite often she can make a better living for herself than she will have provided for her by the man she marries, and she doesn't have to work so hard before marriage as she does afterwards.

What does all this mean?

It means—first of all—that women are healthier than they used to be. It means that they are learning better how to take care of themselves physically. It means that "Female Complaint" is less fashionable than it was a few years ago. It means—among other things—that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription has been widely, and judiciously, and persistently used. This one remedy has done more than anything else to produce the New Woman. It has lifted her out of her invalid's chair and put her on a bicycle. It has fitted her for the better performance of all the duties of her life. She is a healthier, happier, cheerier girl. She is a better feeling, better looking,



better tempered wife. She is a stronger, brighter, more careful, less irritable, pleasanter, happier mother. She produces and raises brighter, healthier, happier children. She performs her duties to husband and children without fatigue, and so without nervousness—and so without crossness. She is what God originally meant her to be. She has taken her proper place at home and in business, because she is able to do so. She is filling a place that was not filled before. She is no longer the mental inferior of her brother man. She is his equal in most things—his superior in many. She is that greatest and most charming of all good things—a perfect woman. And she is a perfect woman because she is a healthy woman. Perfect health is the very best thing she can possess. Without it, she is an incomplete being. If she is dragged down by some nerve-sapping disorder of the organs distinctly feminine, she is a very imperfect woman indeed and she is also a very foolish woman, because she may be relieved surely and easily and permanently by taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. This remedy is the discovery of Dr. R. V. Pierce, an eminent and successful practitioner and most popular medical writer and author, who has for nearly thirty years been the chief consulting physician and surgeon of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y.

The "Favorite Prescription" is for all the ills peculiar to women. In a perfectly natural way it brings about perfect health and strength. It is not a "cure-all." It is for only one class of diseases—those peculiar to women. Its effect is prompt and permanent. It allays inflammation and stops debilitating drains on the system. It corrects distressing and painful periodical derangements. It takes away the dangers and discomforts of all the trying periods of a woman's life. It should be taken whenever there is any irregularity of the feminine functions, and whenever there is any indication of disorder or disease. It should be taken regularly by every woman during the entire period of gestation. It relieves this time of many of its discomforts, and

in the end makes the coming of baby safe and comparatively painless.

The first physician in America to make a life specialty of treating woman's peculiar ailments and the only physician to discover a remedy for nearly all the pain and suffering as well as the danger to both mother and child attending delivery, was Dr. Pierce. He and his staff of skilled specialists have successfully treated hundreds of thousands of women, and have discovered remedies that are founded upon the laws of common sense and act in accordance with the laws of Nature. These are happily combined in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

Every prospective mother should commence early during the period of gestation to fortify and prepare her system for the trying ordeal of the coming of baby, by the regular use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, which exercises a salutary influence over that condition and the function of parturition which cannot be realized from any other medicine extant. Thereby danger to both mother and child is banished, nearly all the pain and suffering are avoided, recovery after confinement is much more speedy, and an abundant secretion of nourishment for the child is promoted. The wonder-working "Favorite Prescription" imparts health and strength to the whole system and especially to the organs distinctly feminine. Not only for prospective mothers, but for nursing ones as well and for feeble women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the greatest earthly boon.

The "Favorite Prescription" is the only medicine now before the public for woman's peculiar ailments, adapted to her delicate organization by a regularly graduated physician—an experienced and skilled specialist in these maladies. It cannot do harm in any condition of the system. Its sales exceed the combined sales of all other medicines for women.

All derangements of the distinctly feminine organism are cured by Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It is absolutely certain. There are some who have neglected themselves so long that a complete cure is next to impossible, but even these will find comfort and improved health in the use of the "Favorite Prescription." It has cured hundreds of women who have received no relief whatever from years of treatment with good physicians. It is absolutely unique in the history of medicine. Such a remedy can be discovered only once. There is nothing in the world like it, nor has there ever been.

The "Favorite Prescription" can be obtained at any good drug store. If you value your health more than you do the druggist's profit, do not let him impose on you by giving you something which he says is "just as good." The "Favorite Prescription" is unique. There is nothing "just as good."

Hundreds of things that every woman ought to know are contained in Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser, which is noticed below and can now be had free on payment of cost of mailing only.

Any woman, anywhere, who is tired of suffering, tired of doctoring, or tired of life, who will write to Dr. Pierce, or to the World's Dispensary Medical Association, of Buffalo, N. Y., of which he is President, will receive, free of charge, good, sound professional advice, that will enable her to cure herself at home (if her case is curable), pleasantly, painlessly, permanently, and this, too, without having to undergo the trying ordeal of "examinations" and the stereotyped and dreaded treatment by "local applications."

All such correspondence is treated in the strictest confidence by Dr. Pierce, whose records of over a quarter of a million cases treated during his past thirty years' experience, show that there are not three incurable cases in a hundred.

Every woman should send for Dr. Pierce's great book, "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser." It has 1008 pages, profusely illustrated. Over 90 pages are devoted to Woman's diseases with suggestions for home-treatment. It will be sent free, bound in paper covers, by World's Dispensary Medical Association, No. 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y., on receipt of this little COUPON with 21 one-cent stamps to cover the cost of mailing only. If French cloth-covered, embossed and gold stamped covers are desired, send 10 cents extra—31 cents in all, to cover only the postage and the extra cost of that more durable and beautiful style of binding. Send now before all are given away.

Our Farm.

Orchard and Small Fruits.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED

BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

Blackberry Culture.—O. E. W., New Salisbury, Ind. Blackberries are most successfully planted in autumn or early spring. Plants grown from root-cuttings are to be preferred to ordinary suckers. They should be set four feet apart in rows eight feet apart. Some good varieties are Snyder, Ancient Briton, Taylor, Kittatinny, Lawton, Erie.

Evergreen Wind-break.—L. B., Monett, Mo. The Scotch pine is a very much faster grower than the red cedar. The latter, however, is a much longer-lived tree of the two. I would use them mixed in the rows, or in separate parallel rows. The red cedar is very compact near the ground, while the Scotch pine is much taller and more open in habit. Norway spruce is also a good evergreen for such situations.—Seedlings—by which I understand you mean young trees from seed, that have never been moved—are not so desirable as transplanted stock.

Shape of Orchards.—S. P. W., Bushnell, Ohio. In ordinary situations, I think that orchard trees generally do fully as well, and often much better, when planted in long rows, separated from one another by quite a wide space, as when set in squares. When thus planted, the fruit is higher colored, and there is less liability of injury from fungous diseases of the fruit, foliage and wood, since there is more chance for a good circulation of air among the trees than when planted in solid blocks, as is customary. In the case of varieties that require cross-fertilization to secure fruitfulness, it would be desirable to somewhat mix the kinds in the rows. This is the method most highly recommended in the northwestern states, where twig-blight and sun-scald are injurious. In such locations the rows should run north and south, so that the top of one tree will shade the trunk of the next, at noon, in the latter part of winter.

Root-grafted Trees—Plum Varieties.—A. N. S., Dodge Center, Minn., writes: "Which is best, root-grafted or budded apple-trees?—Which will make the best plum-trees? Are the following varieties good plum-trees for Minnesota: Blood Golden, Forest Garden, Pottawatomie?—What is Prunus Simoni?"

REPLY:—For Minnesota and other states similarly situated it is best to get root-grafted apple-trees, so that the stock and union will be entirely below ground, and thus protected from sudden climatic changes. Also, when planted thus deeply the scion sends out roots that should be harder than the roots of the stock, which are apt to be tender. But when it comes to a case of top-working, there is little choice in methods, and the one method may be better or worse than the other, according to circumstances. If plum-trees are budded on native plum seedlings, they are practically as good as if root-grafted; but if worked on Myrobalan or peach stocks, they are better root-grafted. But neither Myrobalan nor peach stocks should be used for the plum in Minnesota.—Blood Golden plum is evidently a new variety, and consequently I should go slow about planting it. I know nothing of it. Forest Garden is an old native (American) kind, that is very reliable and productive, but it has a rather acid skin, though of fair quality. Pottawatomie is not hardy enough much north of central Iowa, and is almost worthless in Minnesota. Better plums than any of these for you to plant are Wolf, De Soto and Cheney.—Prunus Simoni is probably a peach-plum hybrid. The fruit is large, smooth, flat, of moderate quality. Not hardy north of central Iowa.

Walnut and Plum Seedlings.—G. A. C., Granada, Minn., writes: "I want to start some walnuts, butternuts and plum stones. I had thought of sending to my old home in Ohio for some nice walnuts of this year's crop. Can it be done now, and they made to grow successfully? I have a lot of plum-stones, saved two years ago. Will these grow? And if so, how must I treat them to get best results? I know that such things should be in the ground, or else stratified, as they call it, but this I do not understand, nor about the freezing process necessary for peach and plum stones."

REPLY:—It would be better for you to plant walnuts grown in Minnesota than Ohio nuts, as they are hardier, and poor success has generally attended the planting of walnuts in Minnesota from milder sections. Walnuts will not be apt to grow if kept dry all winter, and then planted in the spring. If you cannot buy walnuts in the spring that have been properly cared for all winter for planting, you might get the dry nuts now and pack away in a box of moist sand, placed in a cold cellar until the first of March. Then carry the box, without disturbing the nuts, outdoors and cover with a foot or more of chaff as soon as frozen solid, and allow them to thus remain until spring, when they should be planted out in good, rich, moist land, covering about two inches deep. A good way to plant them is to drop them on the surface of the ground and press them in with the foot. Plum-pits should be treated in much the same way if they are now dry. The point of the whole matter is that the pits and nuts must be moist when frosted, and freezing is necessary to open the shells. Even when thus treated, or when treated in the best possible manner, the pits will not all grow the first season, but many of them will remain for one year in the ground before starting to grow. Black walnuts, for planting, may be safely wintered over by putting in piles of about two bushels each and then covering with inverted sods or old leaves. They should be moistened when dry. Plum-pits to do best should never be allowed to get dry. I prefer to plant them in the early autumn. Stratification refers to mixing seeds with earth or sand, as described.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM OREGON.—Here on the Pacific slope in western Oregon we have as fine climate, water, soil and timber as perhaps can be found on the globe. The temperature ranges from eighty-five to ninety degrees in summer, down occasionally to twenty degrees above zero in winter. The country is broken into fertile valleys, hills and mountains. Unlike the mountains of other parts of the country with which I am acquainted, they are fertile to the very summit, and most of them are covered with exceedingly fine timber. The best dressed lumber can be had at \$12 to \$14 per thousand. In these beautiful, fertile valleys run sparkling streams of clear, soft water, abounding in fish. On either or both sides of the streams can be had excellent farms of rich soil, from \$7 to \$25, owing to locality and distance from railroad, say from one to six miles. Wild flowers bloom every month in the year; the grass is green nine months in the year. In the hills are elk, bear, deer, pheasant, grouse and quail. Think of it, you who house your stock and yourselves in comfortable quarters six months in the year, and feed enormous quantities of forage, saved through hard labor in the hot summer months, here in this Italy of America stock live outdoors all the year without being fed! And just think of the people here planting out gardens in midwinter! It is a fact that a man can make a better living on ten acres here than he can on a quarter-section back East, unless, perhaps, it is in the suburb of some city. This is the home of the prune, peach, pear, cherry, apple, and all other fruits except the tropical. All the vegetables grow to perfection. The small grains also grow to perfection, such as wheat, oats, barley, rye, broom-corn, buckwheat, etc. I would advise none to come here without sufficient means to buy a small home, at least. There is bound to be a grand future for this country (it has no past, as it were), when we get enough good people with modern ideas to develop its resources. I am a Tennesseean, and think I know a good country when I see it. The town of Yoncalla, which is a little more than three years old, has 450 inhabitants, a large percent of whom are old soldiers. The surrounding country is sparsely settled by good old-fashioned "mossback" farmers, who are now willing to cut their large farms into smaller ones to suit purchasers. The fruit industry is going to be the leading one in a short time. There are hundreds of acres set to fruit, mostly prunes. A great many old soldiers made the mistake of coming with small means, and investing them all in small plots set to prunes and other fruit, and now have to rustle to live while the trees grow. If they can hold out until the trees are in full bearing, they will be independent beyond a reasonable doubt. I am not a real estate agent, but am anxious to have this splendid country filled with good people. C. B. K.
Yoncalla, Douglass county, Oregon.

FROM GEORGIA.—I would like to tell your readers something about Ware county, Georgia. I am a native of York state, and find the change from the bleak snow-bound northland a most agreeable one. We have had a most delightful fall and winter, and we are now enjoying lettuce, radishes, onions, cabbage, etc., all of which can be had here in profusion. In this county is a large tract of excellent land for farming purposes which can be purchased on very reasonable terms. A Columbus, Ohio, gentleman has purchased a large tract of land here for colonizing purposes, and has taken steps to build a town called Elwood Park. We hope to have in running order in the near future an industrial school, where children who come among us, as well as our own, can receive an excellent education at a nominal price. This will be called the Stiger Institute. Considerable money has already been donated to this school, also 300 acres of land. To those who are thinking of making a change and coming South, I give a cordial invitation to come and be one of us, and share with us our future greatness. F. A. S.
Glenmore, Ga.

FROM MISSOURI.—Sullivan is situated on the Frisco railroad, in Franklin county, sixty-eight miles southwest from St. Louis. The country is rolling, and well adapted to fruits and farming. There are churches and schools, also mills, elevators and everything needful to farmers who raise wheat, corn, cattle and hogs, fruits and poultry for market. A good canning factory might do well here. The climate is mild. Those who have come here from eastern states find it quite genial. Farms can be bought here for from \$5 to \$20 per acre. Sullivan, Mo. J. M. H.

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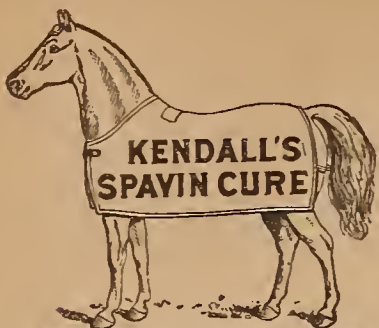
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Dr. B. J. KENDALL Co.—I bought a splendid bay horse some time ago with a spavin. I got him for \$30. I used Kendall's Spavin Cure. The spavin is gone now and I have been offered \$150 for the same horse. I only had him nine weeks, so I got \$120 for using \$2 worth of Kendall's Spavin Cure.
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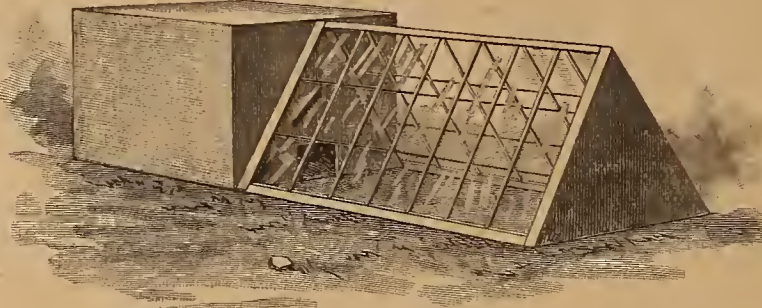
Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammononton, New Jersey.

A CHEAP ARRANGEMENT FOR CHICKS.

WHEN a hen has a brood of chicks, the main point is to keep them warm and protect them from dampness, as well as to afford plenty of sunlight. A cheap arrangement can be devised by using a soap or candle box. The top should be movable, being kept in place with a heavy stone. It should also be perfectly water-tight. The bottom of the box should be one inch above the ground. A covered run, of any length preferred, may be arranged with a light frame, over which oiled muslin is drawn, or glass may be used. It would be well to line the box inside with paper. No floor is required for the run, and it may be detachable from the box. The entrance from the box to the run should be only large enough for the chicks, but when they are a month old, a larger run may be used, and the hen allowed to come out of the box into the run. This arrangement protects from cats and hawks, and prevents the chicks from going far from the hen, as they are easily chilled in winter. The cost should not exceed



fifty cents for material. It will be an advantage if the box and run can be placed under a shed with a dirt floor. Two thirds of the early-hatched chicks die from cold, as it is difficult for a hen to raise a brood in winter, but by affording protection there is no reason why the chicks should not be raised. Early chicks are the most valuable, as they bring the best prices; hence, it will pay to give them a little extra care.

HENS AND BROODS.

The hens will now commence to become broody, and eggs will be given them in order to have them bring off early chicks. But how many of these chicks will be raised is another matter. Those who allow their hens to lose time at incubation should not be satisfied to have them raise only one third of the chicks, as is usually the case. The cause of the great loss among the little chicks (and not thirty per cent of them ever live beyond the first two weeks) is the dependence placed upon the hen. A hen can raise chicks in May and the summer months when the weather is warm, but she cannot be successful in March and April without assistance. She cannot hover her brood in a manner to prevent the chicks from being chilled, and it is only after the weaker ones have perished that she keeps the others alive. It is the "survival of the fittest," and that, too, under hardships and difficulties. Provide a warm and sheltered place for the hens and broods, and look after them carefully. It will pay to save the early chicks, as they bring the highest prices.

CRIPPLE CREEK, COLORADO,

Is now attracting attention in all parts of the world, on account of the marvelous discoveries of gold which have been made in that vicinity. The North-Western Line, with its unrivaled equipment of solid vestibuled trains of palace sleeping cars, dining cars and free reclining chair cars, daily between Chicago and Colorado, offers the best of facilities for reaching Cripple Creek. For tickets and full information apply to ticket agents, or address W. B. Kniskern, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, Chicago & North-Western Railway, Chicago, Illinois.

It is the duty of every patriotic parent to make sure that their children are familiar with the lives of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. They are safe foundation stones.

COST OF BONES AND MEAT.

Even with the low price of wheat the poultryman cannot buy it in retail for less than one cent per pound. In some localities green bone can be bought for much less, as it frequently happens that for ten cents the butcher will sell a lot for the sake of getting rid of them, and give fifteen or twenty pounds. On these bones there may be a pound or more of adhering meat, which is alone worth the price paid for the bones. With a bone-cutter (which every poultryman should have), less grain and more meat and bone can be fed, and at no greater cost than for wheat, with a greater production of eggs as the result.

Lean meat, or cut bone which has a large proportion of meat adhering, is the best food for hens that do not lay. It is often the case that hens fail because they lack only one substance to produce the eggs, and most frequently it is nitrogen. Lean meat is the best form in which to supply it. Three times a week, four ounces of linseed-meal to a dozen hens, mixed with their food, will show a very beneficial effect, but put the hens on a lean-meat diet and they will surely begin to lay if they are in good condition. When hens are seemingly healthy, with red combs, and have good appetites, and do not lay, they are too fat. Shut off the grain and feed lean meat.

Animal food is essential to egg production, and when the grain diet is used less, and more animal food is given, the egg-

basket will be kept full. There are several sources of animal food, insects and worms excepted, but the cheapest is fresh lean meat from the butcher, as it gives the best results, and the commercial ground meat is also excellent. It is ready cooked, containing a large proportion of digestible bone, and can be mixed with ground grain or fed from a trough. Ducks and geese will not thrive if deprived of animal food, and it is fully as cheap as grain, considering the results obtained from its use.

EARLY PULLETS.

As March is the month when the early pullets should be hatched, it is a subject which may be discussed with advantage. If pullets are hatched too early, they may molt in the fall, and for that reason it is not the practice to hatch them before March. This molting in the fall, instead of beginning to lay at that season, is the exception and not the rule, but it is better not to hatch earlier. Keep in view the fact, also, that the large breeds require a longer time during which to grow than the smaller breeds, and that only the pullets of the large breeds should be hatched early. They are intended to come into service next fall, and then lay through the winter. Light Brahmas, Cochins and Plymouth Rocks should be hatched in March; Langshans, Wyandottes and Minorcas by April 10th, and Leghorns, Hamburgs and other small breeds by May 1st. The small breeds sometimes begin to lay when only five months old, and it is not always desirable for them to do so, as it is at the expense of vigor. The pullet that does not begin to lay until November, and then starts at work, will probably lay during the whole winter.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Growing a Variety.—Mrs. M. B., Darlington, La., writes: "I am about to fence in four acres to use as a poultry-yard. What could I plant to best advantage? Would the cow-pea and rice be a good mixed ration?"

REPLY:—For your climate, broom-corn seed, sorghum-seed, millet-seed, cow-peas, rice (if it can be grown) or pop-corn would serve admirably. The best grasses will be those indigenous to the climate and soil.

Bowel Disease.—J. L. S., Burnsville, Va., writes: "My fowls have dysentery, will not eat, and many of them die. They have had access to all the corn they could eat."

REPLY:—Overfeeding with corn is the cause. The remedy is to cease all grain for awhile, allowing a mess of lean meat once a day, a pound for sixteen hens. Add a teaspoonful of tincture of nuxvomica to every gallon of drinking-water for a week.

HOW FRICTION IS OVERCOME.

WHAT ROLLER BEARINGS AND BALL BEARINGS ARE DOING FOR THE MANUFACTURER AND THE FARMER.

The profits on manufactured articles are so small nowadays that manufacturers are compelled to adopt every means possible for saving labor, for taking advantage of every ounce of power and for preventing wear. In the larger factories this desired end is being beautifully accomplished by the application of roller bearings or ball bearings to the shafts, axles and gears of every class of machine, from delicate lathes and spindles to ponderous rolling mills. Roller bearings are employed where the weight and strain are considerable, and ball bearings where a very high rate of speed, under less pressure, is desired. In Albany, Troy, Rochester and Brooklyn, New York; Paterson, N. J.; Attleboro, Mass., and other cities, street cars run on roller bearings. The Delaware & Hudson Canal Co. has a train of five passenger cars that have already run over 150,000 miles on one set of roller bearings, at a net saving of power and coal of fully 30 per cent.

Roller bearings or ball bearings are used in shafting pulleys in dozens of large manufacturing establishments. These establishments report an average saving in power of from 25 to 50 per cent.

But without doubt, the most important use of roller bearings at the present day is their application to harvesting machines by the Deering Harvester Co., at Chicago. These bearings make the Deering binders two-horse machines, even in conditions which call for four horses on the old line machines without roller bearings. They make the Deering mowers so light in draft that one man can draw the machine, cutting a full swath.

The roller bearings not only make the draft extremely light, but they lengthen the life of the machines and save repair bills by preventing wear on the moving parts.

A most interesting description of the uses of roller bearings is contained in a pamphlet called "Roller and Ball Bearings on the Farm," which the Deering Harvester Co. is sending free to any farmer requesting it. It is decidedly worth reading.

The whole secret of the wonders accomplished by the "rolling bearings," whether they be rollers or balls, is that they change the ordinary sliding or scraping contact of the axle to rolling contact. To use a homely expression, these bearings "put roller skates onto the axles."

J. D. SOUDER, Telford, Pa., all var. of Poultry, Pigeons, Eggs, \$1.00 p. 15, 4c. for fine cat. cir. free.

INCUBATORS Self-Regulating. Send for Cat. Geo. S. Singer, Cardington, O.

INCUBATORS 2c. stamp for \$6.00 catalogue. Address, S. Howard Merryman, Bosley, Md.

SUNNYSIDE POULTRY FARM Leghorns, Wyandottes, B. P. Rocks, \$1.00 per 13; Minorcas and Red Caps, \$2.00 per 13. Circular. H. T. ANDERSON & CO., Natick, Pa.

LICE, NITS AND FLEAS on poultry and stock easily and thoroughly removed. No dusting, greasing, dipping or handling. Great seller. Agents wanted. Our 16-page circular tells all about it. LEE & SON, Exeter, N.H.

TOULOUSE Gaasas, Bronze Turkeys, P. Ducks, B. P. Rocks, W. and B. Leghorns, W. and S. L. Wyandottes, W. H. Turkeys, Lt. Brahmas, W. B. and P. Cochins. Fine stock for sale. P. B. McCORMACK, New Concord, O.

PRIZE WINNING POULTRY Cochins, Brahmas, P. Rocks, Andalusians, Leghorns, Langshans, Wyandottes, 6 Buff Breeds, Buff eggs \$1.50 per 13, other \$1. Illinois cat. free. Davis Bros., Box 1009, Washington, N.J.

Incubators & Brooders Best in the world, hot water, pipe system. Will hatch chicks when others fail. Catalogue Free. Shoemaker Incubator Co., Freeport, Ill. U. S. A.

\$5 Hand Bone, Shell, and Corn Mills for Poultrymen. Daisy Bone Cutter. Power Mills. Circular and testimonials free. **WILSON BROS.,** Easton, Pa.

INCUBATORS Our 160 page, finely illustrated Combined Poultry Guide and Catalogue will tell you what you wish to know about

PROFITS IN POULTRY We manufacture a complete line of Incubators, Brooders and Poultry Appliances. Guide and Catalogue 10c. (stamp or silver) Worth one dollar. Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., Quincy, Ill.

HATCH CHICKENS BY STEAM—With the MODEL Excelsior Incubator. Simple, Perfect, Self-Regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other hatcher. Lowest priced first-class hatcher made. **GEO. H. STAHL,** 114 to 122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill. Circulars free. Send 5c. for illus. Catalogue.

THE IMPROVED VICTOR INCUBATOR Hatches Chickens by Steam. Absolutely self-regulating. The simplest, most reliable and cheapest first-class hatcher in the market. Circulars free. **GEO. ERTEL & CO.,** Quincy, Ill.

INCUBATORS, BROODERS, VEGETABLE and CLOVER CUTTERS. BONE and GRAIN MILLS. A complete line of poultry supplies at lowest prices. Green cut bone will **MAKE HENS LAY** in winter and produce fertile eggs for hatching. Send 4c. for catalog and valuable information on poultry raising. **PRERLESS INCUBATOR & BROODER CO.,** 513 S. Ohio St., QUINCY, ILL. Absolutely Self-Regulating.

Our Fireside.

THE MAN FOR SANDY.

I wouldna gie a copper plack
For ony man that turns his back
On duty clear;
I wouldna tak his word or note,
I wouldna trust him for a groat,
I wouldna ride in ony boat
Which he might steer.

When things are just as things should be,
And fortune gies a man the plea,
Where'er he be
It isna hard to understand
How he may walk through house and land
Wi' cheerful face and open hand
Continually.

But when, i' spite o' work and care,
A mau must lose and failure bear
He merits praise;
Wha will not to misfortune bow,
Wha cocks his bonnet on his brow
And fights and fights, he kensna how,
Through lang, hard days.

I wouldna gie an auld bawbee
For ony man that I could see
Who didna hold
The sweetness o' his mither's name,
The kindness o' his brother's claim,
The honor o' a woman's fame,
Fair mair than gold.

Nor is it hard for him to do,
Wha kens his friends are leal and true,
Love sweet and strong,
Whose hearth knows not from year to year
The shadow of a doubt or fear,
Or feels the falling of a tear
For ony wrong.

But gie him praise whose love is pain,
Wha, wronged, forgives and loves again,
And, though he grieves,
Lets not the dear one from his care,
But loves him mair, and mair, and mair,
And bides his time wi' hope and prayer,
And still believes.

Ay, gie him praise wha doesna fear
The up-hill fight from year to year
And wha grips fast
His ain dear ones through good or ill,
Wha, if they wander, loves them still:
Some day of joy he'll get his fill:
He'll win at last.

—Pittsburg Post.

BEN DALTON'S FARM.

A Story of Rural Life.

BY JOHN R. MUSICK.

Author of "The Columbian Historical Novels,"
"Back to the Old Farm," "Helen Lake-
man," "Orlaud Hyde," etc., etc.

CHAPTER V.

MR. DARROW IS IN NO HURRY.

THE advice of the tramp seemed to go like an electric shock through the body of the young farmer. He started back and stared at him for several moments in dismay and astonishment, and then gasped:

"Did you lose your fortune at the races?"

"Yes. Have you ever seen the fat, sleek fellow wearing a diamond ring, and heavy gold watch-chain, a slick hat and broadcloth?"

"Yes," gasped Ben, as he recalled the general appearance of Jack Ralston. "I have seen such a person."

"Well, he represents the lucky side of the race-course and I the more unfortunate. He is a rarer specimen than I. He is like all things that are rare, more beautiful than myself. Things that are common, plain and ugly are usually plentiful, and you will find men of my class quite plentiful, I assure you. They are to be met on every public thoroughfare; they are to be seen at every cross-road; they are found at every farm-house in the country; in the city, the public parks afford seats for us, and Mother Earth, the only being that is kind to us, gives us her broad bosom to lay our heads upon when we are tired. Often we sob ourselves to sleep on her breast when we think of the wrongs we have suffered at the hands of our friends. Take my advice, young man, and avoid the turf. It has its allurements; so has the candle to the moth. The poor thing flutters about, it sings its poor wings until it falls helplessly into the light which attracted it. The same is true of the turf, or any sort of a game of chance. We never see the ninety-nine unfortunates—heart-broken wanderers—strolling about the country, kicked from door to door; but we, like the moth, see the man with the diamond ring, silk hat and heavy gold watch-chain."

"I appreciate all you have said," answered Ben Dalton, in a low, solemn tone.

"You have been on the race-track yourself."

"How do you know?"

"I saw you there."

"When?"

"Last Wednesday."

Ben blushed, and the tramp went on.

"I know that you bet. I saw you, and I wanted to warn you then, but what would the word of a tramp, a beggar, be taken for?"

I kept still. You got the hot end of the poker, but the burn was so slight, and the light is so brilliant, that the moth will soon be found fluttering about the candle again."

"I will not."

"You think so now, but the work has begun, and when it once begins, it seldom ends until ruin is reached."

"Since you know who I am, you had as well tell me who you are," said Ben.

"Well, sir, in our profession I am known as Happy Joe. I once had another name, but all that is passed now. I don't care to recall it. It would be too much like recalling a beautiful dream of the past, to make your present more miserable. But I was at the races the other day. I go often. How do I get the gate-money? Well, I don't always have it, then I learn to scale the wall, or climb under it, or bore a hole in it, so as to see the horses go by. Two things we sporting gents of the road will have—we will see the horses run and we will have liquor. Why not? They are the only enjoyment we have. But, friend, I must go now, and before I do, I will let the curtain drop just a little to show you how I have fallen. I was young, had wealth and was prosperous, when a very dear friend came to me and persuaded me in an evil hour to go to the races. I went. I won sometimes, and sometimes I lost, but my winnings were

Ben stood on the bridge and watched him as he wandered down the road, singing:

Oh, I'm a jolly vagrant
I go from door to door—

"One might learn a lesson from that fellow," Ben thought. "I certainly should if I needed any lesson."

A man is in a very unfortunate condition when he concludes that he needs no further advice in this world. He, like the blind leading the blind, both will tumble into the ditch.

Next day Ben received a letter from the village post-office from Mr. Woods in Columbus, saying that Mr. Darrow would be in the city for a day or two, and he would be glad to see him, if convenient. He decided to go to the city next day, and told his wife that he was going to meet Mr. Darrow on a matter of business.

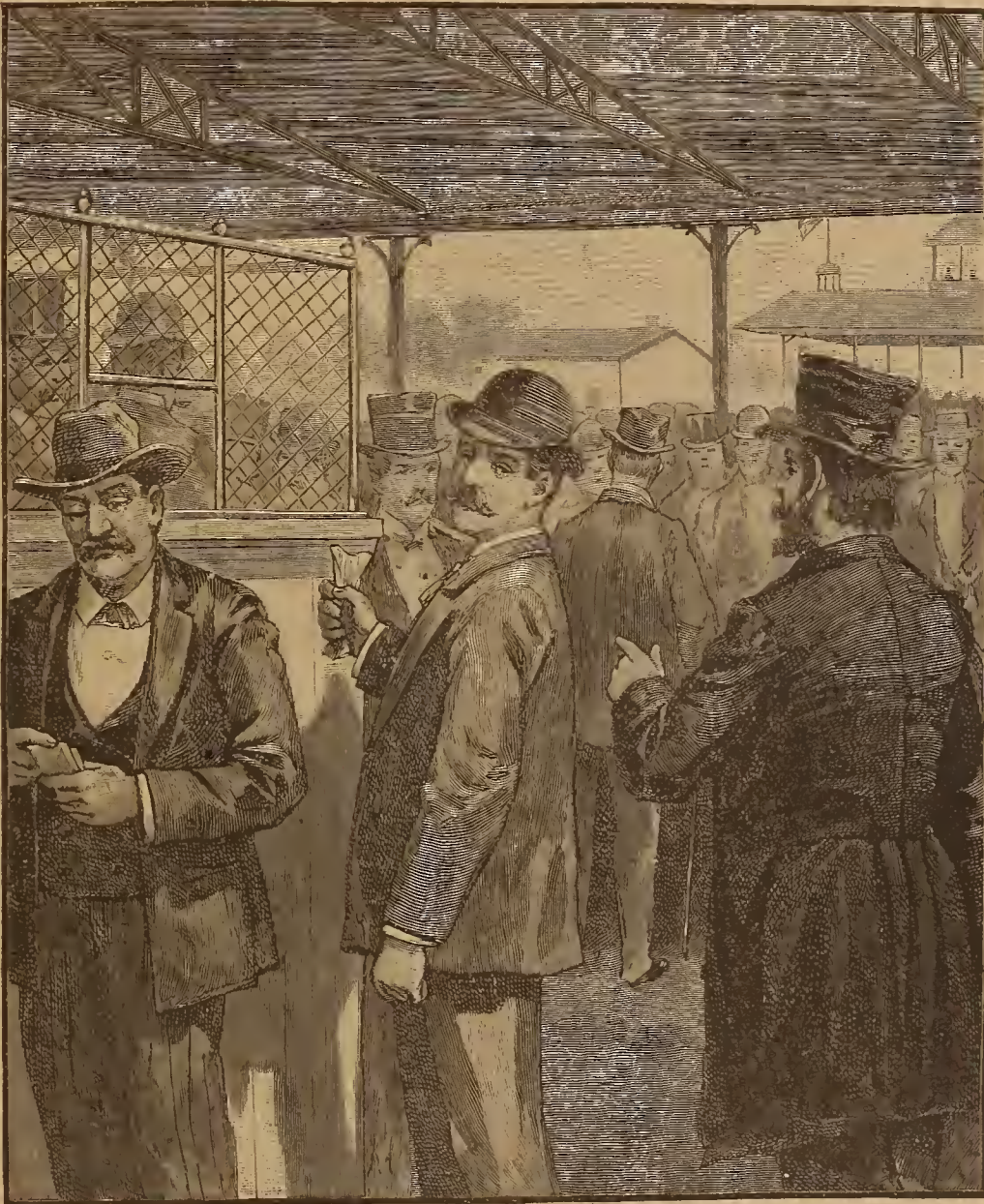
"You will be able to make another payment then, won't you, Ben?" she asked.

"I hope to," he answered, with a sigh.

"Why, I thought you had enough to make a payment several days ago!"

"I think I have," he answered, evasively.

Then in order to divert her attention from the subject that was growing painfully embarrassing to him, he began playing with little Harry. The baby screamed with delight



HE TURNED QUICKLY AND FIXED HIS EYE ON THE SPEAKER.

small and my losses were great. That would have been nothing had I not created an ungovernable desire, or appetite, I might say, for gambling. I could not be content at anything else. I was nervous and excitable. I lost my head, while my companion was cool and cold-blooded. He would never lose his temper, and studied gambling as a fine art, and when he won, he won heavily, and when he lost, he lost lightly. He is now one of the fine, fat steers in society, who horn the poor, scrawny brutes aside, and send us begging from door to door for a crust of bread. Now, my new friend, I must depart for the present; if you have a few spare pennies, and care to lighten my already light heart, just drop them in the hand of Happy Joe, and he will kindly remember you as he wanders from house to house, not having a place to lay his head."

Ben thrust his hand in his pocket and drew out some small coin, which he placed in the hands of the tramp, and said:

"Happy Joe, you are worthy of something better than this. A man can be made of you yet."

With a laugh, the jolly vagabond answered: "Who would like to undertake such a stupendous contract? I dare say you would not, and I doubt if you know any one who would. Certainly it would not be the sleek, fat, well-fed steer who horns us away from the manger, while he eats and makes himself sleeker and fatter all the time. But I am not going to moralize. You will come to regard me as a pessimist if I keep on talking at this rate, so adieu."

as his father tossed him up in the air and caught him again.

"Ben, did you know the diphtheria was in the country?" the anxious mother asked.

"There you go again, horrowing more trouble," the father and husband answered. "Why don't you allow yourself one moment of peace, and not go on imaginuing every possible ill is going to happen Harry."

"Well, it is always best to know what danger may threaten him."

"It will be time enough to go for the doctor when he is sick."

She smiled, and he went to saddle his riding-horse to go to the city in order to meet Mr. Darrow, from whom he had purchased the farm.

"I hope he will take this one hundred and eighty dollars," he thought, as he placed the saddle on Dick's back. The day was warm, and the sun shone over the lovely landscape once more. Again the mother and her baby came to see the father off, and whisper a last word of warning and cheer.

"Come home early, Ben, for you know how being out late at night always makes your head ache."

"I will be home just as soon as I can, Lizzie," he answered, and vaulting in the saddle, he galloped away, much against the protests of little Harry, who could not be reconciled to being left at home.

The road, as usual, was thronged with travelers to and from the city. Ben lived near the great city of Columbus, and his farm would grow in value every year. He had bought it

at a bargain. Mr. Darrow was an old acquaintance of his father. He had bought up land in the country many years before, when it was cheap, and was selling it out at five times the amount he had paid for it. With Ben he had been more liberal than was his habit. He saw in him a young man, industrious and honorable, and being the son of a friend, he sold him a farm at lower figures than he was offered for it a year before. Ben was compelled to buy it on time. He made a payment down, and there were several more to make. It was stipulated in the note that he might pay two hundred dollars at any time he chose, after the first year.

He was not to be permitted to pay less. Mr. Darrow only gave his bond for a deed, and was to make the deed to him when he had paid all but six hundred dollars, and take his note for the remainder.

The facts are that Mr. Darrow did not believe that he would be able to meet the payments. If he failed to do that, all he had paid would be forfeited and he would lose his farm. Darrow expected, as many speculators have done, and still continue to do, that this poor young farmer would struggle along for a few years, and then give up all his accumulations to him. But Ben had deceived him. As payment after payment came due, he had met them, and now only one more was to be made, and the deed was to be given.

"He is nearing the home stretch, Woods," said Mr. Darrow to his agent. "I believe he will make it."

"Yes," the agent answered. "He is said to have an excellent crop this year, and has quite a little sprinkle of cattle and horses for the fall and winter market."

Mr. Darrow heaved a sigh. Here was a chance to reap a profit, to fleece another victim, which he had counted almost sure, gone. But the day that the two hundred dollars were to be paid, as the reader knows, Ben was twenty dollars short. He went to Mr. Woods and wanted to pay one hundred and eighty, but that amount could not be received just then. Mr. Darrow was informed of the matter, and came from his home in Illinois to look after that and some other matters. That was why Ben was written to come to the city. Ben's heart was heavy as he jogged along the road, passing many people whom he knew, and a great many more who were total strangers. The nearer he approached the city limits the more numerous became the vehicles, the horsemen and pedestrians. There seemed to be a general rush toward the city from all over the country. Occasionally he came up with an acquaintance, to whom he nodded familiarly, and rode on.

At last a voice that was familiar cried out:

"Hello, my friend. You look like a cavalier on your prancing steed this morning."

He turned his eyes in the direction of the speaker, and beheld the tramp acquaintance of the day before.

"Well, Happy Joe, how are you this morning?"

"I am still on my pedal extremities, my dear sir, and wending my way to the race-course. We knights of the road must have our amusement, you know."

"Do you expect to bet on the races?"

"Oh, yes. I picked apples all day yesterday, and have seventy-five cents in my pocket, and I am going to blow it in."

"Do you hope to win?"

"No, no. You see, I am not one of the kind that wins. It is the sleek fellows who wear silk hats, diamond rings and broadcloth who win. I must feed them, however, you know. It takes ninety-nine of us to feed one of those fellows. We are the suckers. Not the green suckers, like you, from whom they take great

chunks at a time, but the fettered and shackled slaves who earn but a mite, and give that mite to them."

"If you have seventy-five cents, why don't you keep it?"

"I could no more stay away from the race-track than you can keep away from your wife and child. It is my passion, it is my ruin, my misery, and at the same time my happiness."

"You are an odd genius."

"Yes, there are ninety-nine of us to every sleek, fat steer whom we feed."

The young farmer galloped on, strangely impressed by the words of the tramp. He halted at the "Farmers' Retreat," and had Dick stabled, and then boarded the street-car for Mr. Woods' office. There was no funeral crape on the door this time. The office door was unlocked, the proprietor in, but there were several men in the front talking with him on business matters.

"Good-morning, Mr. Dalton," said Mr. Woods, with his bland smile, when Ben entered the office.

"Good-morning, Mr. Woods. Where is Mr. Darrow?" he asked.

"He is in the private office in consultation with some parties. He will be at leisure soon, and you can then see him. Have a seat."

"Thank you."

Ben threw himself in a chair, and one of the office-boys laid a paper before him, and said:

"You can look over the races. There is the score-card published for this afternoon."

Ben felt a shudder thrill his frame. Why was the race-course constantly held up before

his vision? Had he committed the unpardonable sin, and was he like Vanderdecken, to be haunted through eternity for doing so?

He glanced over the paper for several moments, and at last was told that Mr. Darrow was now at leisure, and would see him.

He rose and went into the private office, where sat a man between fifty and sixty years of age. He was a man of medium height, rather slender, and with hair almost white, short-cropped beard, as white as his hair.

"Well, Ben, how are you?" he asked, in very mild, smooth but firm tone.

"Very well, Mr. Darrow. I hope you are the same."

"Oh, as well as one of my age can be, I suppose. I learn that you have excellent prospects for a crop this year?"

"Yes, sir, the prospects never were better," he answered. "I hope to be able to pay off every dollar that I owe you this fall."

"Oh, don't be in too great a hurry about that!" he answered. "You have a year to do that in."

"Yet I will feel better if it is done now."

"I suppose so."

"But I want to make a payment of one hundred and eighty dollars now, Mr. Darrow. I lack twenty dollars of having the two hundred, and I don't want to wait until I have sold my cattle, hogs and surplus crop to have the full two hundred."

"Why not? You can have the use of the money!"

"But I don't want the use of it."

"Why, my boy, you might go down to the race-track and make more out of it than you would on your farm."

"You would not advise me to try that, would you?"

"It all depends on your judgment of horses. There is a fortune for men who have good judgment in such matters. But never mind about the two hundred payment."

"That payment was due the fifteenth of this month."

"So it was, but you have sixty days to make it in, and I am in no particular hurry. Now, my dear sir, just take your time for it. The bond won't be forfeited for sixty days, and by that time you may have the whole thing."

CHAPTER VI.

A GAIN.

Ben found it useless to urge Mr. Darrow to break his established rule and receive an amount less than the payment. He declared that he could not. He was so set in his ways that he must insist on following the course he had adopted so long ago. There was no need to be in a great hurry about it. He was not one to "crowd him," and he had so very little to pay off.

"But I am so anxious to get my deed," he declared.

"Oh, you shall have that precious document all in due time, my boy. Now, don't allow that matter to worry you at all; I assure you that it will be all right."

Ben left the office with the burden only partially removed from his heart.

"I will borrow the money," he declared, "and pay it off yet."

"Hello!" cried a voice, "where have you been all this time, Ben?"

He then discovered for the first time that the voice came from an elegant carriage, which had drawn in close to the sidewalk, and the door was thrown open, and the face of his friend Jack Ralston appeared.

"Jack!"

"Well, Ben, I was just thinking of going out to see you, and make you a call."

"I wish you had come. My humble home does not offer any of the comforts to which you are accustomed, but you are welcome to such as we can afford."

"Oh, nonsense! I tell you, it is a luxury sometimes to go to one of those rural homes, where a fellow don't have to be on his P's and Q's all the time. But get in and come with me."

"Where are you going?"

"Going to dinner. You have not dined today, have you?"

"No, but—"

"Oh, come, no buts about it. You shall come with me and have a dinner at my hotel. Why, you seem as shy as if you were afraid of me."

Jack seemed to be really hurt, and Ben said: "No, Jack, I am not afraid of you. I came to town to attend to some business, and could not accomplish what I wanted."

"Well, then, get in and go with me to my hotel, and have a good dinner. Nothing helps a fellow so well to bear up under a disappointment as a good dinner."

Ben had no excuse for not going with him, so almost before he knew it he found himself seated in the carriage by the side of the gambler, being whirled toward the hotel. It was one of the best hotels in the city, and such luxuries as it afforded were uncommon to Ben. He was royally entertained by his friend, who told him many stories that were so funny that they brought back a smile to his face once more.

"What has come over you of late, Ben?" he said. "You are not the light-hearted, merry fellow I knew at college, always ready for frolic or mischief. Is it married life that has so completely changed you? If it is, why, by jove! I don't care to enter the field of matrimony!"

"It is not that, Jack. I assure you that I

have no need to complain of my married life. I have a very prudent, economical wife, and one who will not mope all day for a satin dress, which she knows her husband is not able to procure for her."

"Well, then, you are in luck. I have not the most exalted opinion of a majority of what are called the upper tens of society women. It seems to me that they care more for a fine dress than the anxiety it may cause the husband to obtain."

By degrees he got from Ben that his was a business trouble.

"I owe two hundred dollars, and have only a hundred and eighty to pay it with."

"Why in thunder didn't you tell me before? What is the matter with you?" the gambler said, with a hearty laugh. "Why, here is the money, take it and go and pay the amount."

Ben was thunderstruck. He had never thought of applying to his friend for the loan.

"But, Jack, how do you know you will ever get it back?" he asked.

"Oh, that is my lookout, not yours. If I don't make a hundred times as much before two days, I will miss my guess. If you ever happen to have the money, and should think of it, you can pay me, providing I am not engaged."

Jack laughed, and Ben joined him. The young farmer had not felt so light-hearted since he had lost his twenty dollars at the race-course. He was quite sure that he had done his friend an injustice, by partially blaming him for his own losses, and determined to make up for it by appreciation now.

"Well, let us go and pay that two hundred dollars at once," said Jack. "I suppose when you get that off your mind you will be more at your ease."

"I certainly will."

He placed his silk hat on his head, lighted a cigar, and in company with the young farmer set out for the office of the real estate agent. They boarded a street-car and were taken to the door of the office.

"Now, Jack, I will have the deed to my farm in twenty minutes," he said, almost gleefully.

They ran lightly up the steps and entered the office.

"Where is Mr. Darrow?" he asked of one of the office-boys.

"He went out into the country to look at some land which he expects to sell," the boy answered.

"Where is Mr. Woods?"

"He went with him."

"Will neither be back to-day?"

"No, sir."

Ben felt his heart sink. He hoped to go home that night and lay the long-wished-for deed in his wife's lap, but he was again doomed to disappointment. There was no one in the office who was authorized to receive the money, so he was forced to take it away with him.

"Well, Ben, what are you going to do now?"

"I suppose I had as well go home, Jack. It is about all that is left for me."

"Oh, pshaw! Come with me to the race-course."

Ben turned pale, and said: "Jack, I said after I lost twenty dollars that day that I would never enter the gate of a race-course again."

"Oh, gammon, boy! that is all nonsense. Now, don't get to be sentimental. If you lost yesterday, you might win to-day."

"No; I have sworn not to put up another cent until my farm is paid for."

"A good resolution, but look here, Ben, I want you to do me a favor."

"What is it?"

"I want you to come with me to the race-course this afternoon and buy pools for me. I want to put some money on a dark horse, you know. I don't want any one to know which I am backing. I will put the money in your hands, instruct you how to use it, and you shall share ten per cent of the gains and none of the loss. Now, come, isn't that safe? Don't think I am suddenly grown magnanimous; it is a clear, legitimate business deal. You are really only my agent to handle my coin."

He hesitated, but his friend urged him, and he consented to go. They hailed a passing cab, and were driven to the race-course, and Jack took him aside and placed two thousand dollars in his hand, and gave him full instructions what to do with it.

Ben felt a little timid with so much money in his hands at one time, but he went about to the book-makers, and soon had placed the entire sum. The races were run, and he raked in a considerable amount for Jack. The gambler sat apart smoking his cigar, and looked as unconcerned as if he had no interest at stake.

"You gave me two thousand dollars," said Ben. "I placed it as you directed and bring you back twenty-five hundred."

"Fifty of it is yours," said Jack. "If you wish it, I will deduct the twenty you owe me, and you make thirty clear, so you can make the payment and have ten dollars left."

Ben could hardly believe his good luck. His friend seemed so honest, so unselfish, and so anxious to aid him, that he could not help reproving himself for having ever indirectly blamed him for enticing him into the race-track.

He pocketed his thirty dollars, and gave the remainder to Jack.

"Now, whenever you want to go, don't let me detain you," said Jack, "but if you are not anxious to go home right away, I wish you would do me a still greater favor, and one that will pay you pretty well, too."

"I will do anything for you that I can, Jack," said the farmer.

"Well, there is going to be some fine work done here this afternoon. I can do nothing myself. If I go down among the book-makers, I will be watched, but you won't. Here are two thousand." He then took a score-card, and showed him the horses on which he wanted the money placed, and marked the amount on each.

Ben took the money, and was just placing the last amount, when a familiar voice at his side said:

"The blaze was too bright for you, my unsophisticated friend, and you have come to get your wings singed again."

He turned quickly, and fixed his eyes on the speaker. It was his acquaintance, the tramp.

[To be continued.]

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As near as I can find out, nobody ever knew how Conky Stiles came to know as much of the Bible as he did. Thirty years ago people as a class were much better acquainted with the Bible than folks are nowadays, and there wasn't another one of 'em in the whole Connecticut valley, from the Canada line to the Sound, that could stand up 'longside of Conky Stiles and quote Scripture. Well, he knew the whole thing by heart, from Genesis, chapter I, to the amen at the end of the Revelations of St. John the Divine. That's the whole business in a nutshell.

His name wasn't Conky; we called him Conky for short. His real name was Silas Stiles, but one time at a Sunday-school convention Mr. Hubbell, the minister, spoke of him as a "very concordance of the Holy Scriptures," and so the boys undertook to call him Concordance, but bimeby that name got whittled down to Conky, and Conky stuck to him all the rest of his life; not a bad name for him, neither, as names go; heap more dignified than Si!

When Conky was eight years old he got the prize at our Sunday-school for having committed to memory the most Bible verses in the year, and the same spring he got up and recited every line of the Acts of the Apostles without having to be prompted once. By the time he was twelve years old he knew the whole Bible by heart, and most of the hymn-book, too, although, as I have said, the Bible was his specialty. Yet he wasn't one of your pale-faced boys; no, sir, not a bit of it! He took just as much consolation in playin' three old cat and barn ball and hoehey as any of the rest of us boys, and he could beat us all fishin', although, perhaps, that was because he learnt a new way of spittin' on his bait from his uncle, Lute Mason, who was considered a sport in those days.

Conky was always hearty and cheery; we all felt good when he was around. We never minded that way he had of quotin' things from the Bible; we'd got used to it, and maybe it was a desirable influence. At any rate, we all liked Conky.

But perhaps you don't know what I mean when I refer to his way of quotin' the Bible. It was like this: Conky, we'll say, would be goin' down the road, and I'd come out of the house and holler, "Hello, there, Conky; where be you goin'?"

Then he'd say, "John xx. 3"—that would be all he'd say, and that would be enough, for it gave us to understand that he was goin' a-fishin'.

Conky never made a mistake; his quotations were always right; he always hit the chapter and the verse sure pop the first time.

The habit grew on him as he grew older. Associating with Conky for fifteen or twenty minutes wasn't much different from reading the Bible for a couple of days, except that there wasn't any manual labor about it. I guess he'd have been a minister if the war hadn't come along and spoiled it all.

In the fall of 1862 there was a war meetin' in the town hall, and Elijah Cutler made a speech urgin' the men-folks to come forward and contribute their services—their lives, if need be—to the cause of freedom and right. We were all keyed up with excitement, for next to Wendell Phillips and Henry Ward Beecher, I guess Elijah Cutler was the greatest orator that ever lived. While we were shiverin', and waitin' for somebody to lead off, Conky Stiles rose up and says, "I. Kings xx. 20," says he, and with that he put on his cap and walked out of the meetin'.

"Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee."

That's what Conky said, or as good as said, and that's what he meant, too.

He didn't put off his religion when he put on his uniform. Conky Stiles, soldier or civilian, was always a livin', walkin' encyclopedia of the Bible, a human compendium of psalms and proverbs and texts, and I had that confidence in him that I'd have bet that he wrote the Bible himself, if I hadn't known better and to the contrary.

We were with McClellan a long spell. There was a heap of sickness among the boys, for we weren't used to the climate and soil, and most of us pined for the comforts of home. Lookin' back over the thirty years that lie between this time and that, I see one loomin' up, calm and bright and beautiful in the midst of fever and sufferin', privation and death; I see a homely, earnest face, radiant with sympathy and love and hope, and I hear Conky Stiles' voice again speakin' comfort and cheer to all about him. We all loved him; he stood next to Mr. Lincoln and General McClellan in the hearts of everybody in the regiment.

They sent a committee down from our town one Thanksgiving to bring a lot of good things and to see how soon we were going to capture Richmond. Mr. Hubbell, the minister, was one of them; Deacon Cooley was another.

There was talk at one time that Conky had a soft spot in his heart for the deacon's girl, Tryphena, but I always allow that he paid as much attention to the other daughter, Tryphosa, as he did to the elder sister, and I guess he hadn't any more hankerin' for one than he had for the other, for when the committee come to go home, Conky says to Deacon Cooley, "Well, good-by, deacon," says he, "Romans xvi. 12."

We had to look it up in the Bible before we knew what he meant. "Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord"—that was Conky's message to the Cooley girls.



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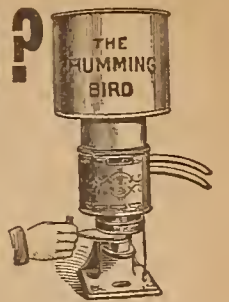
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He wrote a letter once to Mr. Carter, who was one of the selectmen, and he put this postscript to it: "Romans xvi. 6." You see, Mr. Carter's wife had been Conky's Sunday-school teacher, and Conky did not forget to "greet Mary, who bestowed much labor on us."

Down at Elnathan Jones' general store the other day, I heard Elnathan tell how Conky clerked it for him a spell, and how one day he says to Conky, "That Baker bill has been runnin' on for more'n six weeks. We can't do business unless we get our money. Conky, I wish you'd kind o' spur Baker up a little."

So Conky sat down on the stool at the desk, and dropped Mr. Baker a short epistle to this effect: "Romans i. 14; Psalms xxi. 11; Psalms cxlii. 6." Next day who should come in but Mr. Baker, and he allowed that the letter had gone straighter to his conscience than any sermon would have gone, and he paid up his bill and bought a kit of salt mackerel in the bargain, so Elnathan says.

I could keep on tellin' things like this day in and night out, for lots of just such stories are told about Conky all over Hampshire county now; some of 'em doubtless are true, and some of 'em doubtless ain't; there's no tellin'; but it can't be denied that most of 'em have the genuine Conky flavor.

The histories don't say anything about the skirmish we had with the rebels at Churchill's bridge along in May of '64, but we boys who were there remember it as the toughest fight in all our experience. They were just desperate, the rebels were, and—well, we were mighty glad when night came, for a soldier can retreat in the dark with fewer chances of interruption. Out of our company of one hundred and fifty only sixty were left! You can judge from that of what the fighting was at Churchill's bridge. When they called the roll next day Conky Stiles wasn't there.

Had we left him dead at the bridge, or was he wounded, dying the more awful death of hunger, thirst and neglect?

"By —!" says Lew Bassett, "let's go back for Conky!"

That's the only time I ever heard an oath without a feelin' of regret.

A detachment of cavalry went out to reconnoiter. Only the ruin of the previous day remained where we boys had stood and stood—only to be repulsed at last. Bluecoats and graycoats lay side by side and over against one another in the reconciling peace of death. Occasionally a maimed body, containing just a remnant of life, was found, and one of these crippled bodies was what was left of Conky.

When the surgeon saw the minie-hole, here in his thigh, and the saber-gash here in his temple, he shook his head, and we knew what that meant.

Lew Bassett, a man who had never been to meetin' in all his life, and who could swear a new and awful way every time—Lew Bassett says, "No, Conky Stiles ain't goin' to die, for I shan't let him!" and he bent over and lifted up Conky's head, and held it so, and wiped away the trickles of blood, and his big, hard hands had the tenderness of a gentle, lovin' woman's.

We heard Conky's voice once, and only once, again; for when, just at the last, he opened his eyes, and saw that we were there, he smiled feeble like, and the grace of the Book triumphed once more within him, and he says—it seemed almost like a whisper, he spoke so faint and low—"Good-by, boys. II. Timothy iv. 7."

And then, though his light went out, the sublime truth of his last words shone from his white, peaceful face.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith."—Eugene Field, in Chicago Record.

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Our Household.

THE PICKPOCKET.

"Dear," she sobbed timidly (she was a bride), "My pocket has been picked!" Without a word

(She was a bride), he never once demurred; But from his pocket took, nor even sighed, A crisp, new bill, and asked: "What was it, dear—

A ten or twenty? See, I have it here!" (She was a bride.)

"It was but ten!" with a soft blush she cried, But looked so sweet that joyfully he laid The twenty in her hand and thought he paid Small price for her quick kiss (she was a bride), Then turned, but a low whisper met his ear: "Perhaps—perhaps I ought to tell you, dear,"

(She was a bride.)

Her voice sank lower still; she faintly sighed, And sought for words she could not seem to find;

At last, "Twas I who picked it! Do you mind?"

Of course he didn't mind (she was a bride), But thought it such a pretty little trick, He laid away twenty more for her to pick! (She was a bride.)

—Alice Wellington Rollins.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE POFFENBERGER PARLOR.

I'm sure I don't see why we never thought of it before. But we didn't, until one evening just a month or so after holidays. The parlor was one of those austere rooms that chill the very marrow of conversation. I never knew any one to say anything jolly or witty, or friendly or sociable, or anything but the most frigid or conventional commonplaces in that apartment. I think most people were literally struck dumb upon entering its funeral atmosphere. A conversational microbe couldn't have existed there. There wasn't even a conversational molecule on which he might with any degree of safety have perched. When visitors wanted to have a good time, they invariably adjourned first to the orchard, or on their return to the veranda, if in summer, and in winter they always invented some fiction that brought them into the tongue-loosening ozone of kitchen or family sitting-room. Poor mother always wondered why they would persist in invading her special domain, and finally I said, after mature deliberation, "I believe it's that horsehair furniture,"

light by remarking, sotto voce, "That dreadful parlor!"

"Go to!" said my brother. "That room is bewitched."

"But it doth not yet appear," I began, while mother eyed me reprovingly and gave me an admonitory tap on my intellectual cranium with her knitting-needles. "Give us permission, mother?" I asked.

"As if you waited," she remarked.

"Since it's decided that the trouble is in the horsehair, then the line should be drawn there."

"Now, girls, you know we can't buy any new furniture," began mother. "We haven't the money;" whereupon dear old father, roused from his nap, looked kindly around on us, drew his check-book toward him, and indulgently inquired:

"Money! How much, my daughter?"

Grace blew a kiss to him from the tips of her pretty fingers, and I said, "Just give us your signature. We'll fill the blank." Then, "Five dollars to begin with; but, papsie dear, not now."

Then we all grinned delightedly and began anew.

"Let us work together," I said. "United we stand, divided we fall."

I made the trip to town next day, and while there bought a remnant of damask upon which for many days I had cast covetous eyes. After I got home, I abstracted one of those horsehair monstrosities, retired to the seclusion of my room, and under the precaution of lock and key, began the process of covering that chair. The damask was lovely—no mistake about that. No satin, no green and gold and crimson gaud, but a faded, dull blue ground with an indefinite stripe running lengthwise and encompassing a delicious pattern of dull pink rosebuds, a regular Louis XV. design; and so the transformation began. I haunted dry-goods establishments and furniture-stores. I sent tiny fragments of my beautiful damask away, and bought of different pieces enough to cover all of those hideous, slippery horsehair chairs. One tete-a-tete was covered with corn-colored silk, over which a beautiful old-fashioned Persian design ran; the other with soft lavender, and the big chair in the dullest of dull old rose. I kept those chairs carefully hidden, and not a soul peeped.

"What's the theme?" asked Grace one evening, for she wanted to do the papering.

"Dull blue and Louis XV., sister," I answered.

So it came to pass, Grace went to town. We always "clean house" the last of May, and pretty Grace cast an imploring glance at father when we carried the parlor carpet out that lovely spring morning. Father is so good!

"They might as well enjoy it," he says, "so how much do you want, you tease?"

Well, we all went to buy that carpet, and we got a Wilton. It was a darling—dull blue, cream and rose, flecks of green and gold on a tan ground. Oh, it was so pretty! Meantime, the paper-hanger had been at work, and the soft buff ground covered with brown clover-heads, with a ceiling wherein blue predominated, smiled esthetically down upon us as we tacked down our pretty Wilton. Then we hung the shades, which weren't so bad, being a soft

gray, and Belle's artistic hand draped the lace curtains and drew them back in graceful folds.

"The procession will please form," I announced, and we proceeded to bring forth the rejuvenated furniture. We, of course, had picture-molding and a few very pretty pictures, for Belle paints very nicely indeed, and that was her contribution. The stove we banished to the good, dry woodshed, and we scattered some papers and magazines in the corners and on the little table. Then we drew mother's sewing-

chair and work-basket in beside the lifted window, led mother in, enthroned her, fastened a rosebud in her soft, gray coils, captured father in his big leather chair in the sitting-room, hauled him in in state, and—well, the upshot of it was, he was pleased with the entire affair, and with us, too. So they fell to talking of how pretty the parlor was, and how glad they were they gave us the money and let us have our way, and how glad they were that they could humors; and we all fell to talk-



COMFORTABLE HOOD.

ing at once. We used that parlor for a sitting-room all summer, and always talk whenever we're there.

We're planning the old Brussels and denim curtains for next winter, and father's going to get us a pretty anthracite stove, for we tell him he's worked so hard, he might as well enjoy some of his money as to will it all to us. And he thinks so, too, God bless him!

ONE OF THE POFFENBERGERS.

LACE FICHU.

These are worn now with every toilet—at home, the theater, and upon various other occasions. They are made of lace and ribbon, chiffon puffed upon thin silk, all-over embroidery, dotted swiss, trimmed with dotted swiss edging, thin silks in pale colors, and, in fact, of so many materials it is hard to enumerate them, but they always look well with any dress.

The illustration shows a way to handle it so as to completely cover the dress waist, the yoke being of lace and the front of lace and chiffon. Chiffon rosettes are at the shoulders, and a large chiffon at the back of the neck.

HANDKERCHIEF-CASE OF PAPER.

Cut a piece of white cotton batting twice the size in length that you wish the square to be. From white crape-paper cut half-inch strips as long as the piece of batting, and as many as are necessary to cover it; cut from yellow crape strips the same width, sufficient to cover it crosswise. Weave these strips over and under until a solid piece for the outside of the case is made. Cut of white crape a piece the exact size of the batting. Lay the cotton on the woven piece, cut it

a little less than the paper, sprinkle it with perfume-powder, lay the plain piece evenly on and paste securely together all around, pressing the edges with a ruler to make them flat. Now double the piece to form a square, and paste together along one side, leaving a corner opening. Finish the edge, inside and outside, with a fine cord of the colored paper, making loops at each corner of the top for ornament. The manner of making the cord has been described in previous articles.

M. E. SMITH.

COMFORTABLE HOOD.

Where children must ride a long distance, or in cases where they take cold easily and suffer from earache, the head should be well protected. I think the prevalence of catarrh at the present day is due to wearing hats in winter as well as summer.

The hood illustrated is made of eider-down lined with silk and trimmed around the edge with loops of chenille. It is in two pieces, the collar being set on. The neck is always susceptible, and in severe weather should be protected to avoid colds.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LINEN EMBROIDERY.

As so much of this work is now done by the ladies, the best way to work with the silks, and also how to wash them, may not be out of place.

In the first place, use only the very best materials. If the linen is stamped when you buy it, see that it is of good quality, for there is no use wasting time and material on inferior linen or poor cotton goods.

Do not be afraid to use plenty of silk when you are working with filo, as after it is laundered it will show thin in spots.

Borders are now being worked in long stitches in iridescent silks. The effect is beautiful. Skill comes with practice in this work.

If your hands rough the silk, go over your fingers carefully with a piece of toilet-pumice. The gloss and sheen of the silk should be preserved.

Work the middle first, and leave the border until the last.

An effective border is made in a button-hole-stitch of white, going over it again on the edge with a delicate color—either pink or yellow. It should follow the scheme of color in the rest of the pattern. A quick border is worked in Roman floss.

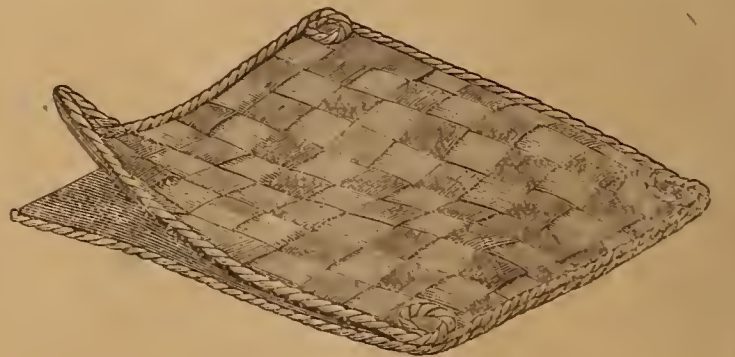
It is always cheapest to buy your silks by the dozen. If you do not want so many of a color, finish out the dozen with white. Very convenient receptacles in book-form come to hold the silks, and are given with a dozen skeins. An ingenious little woman covered hers with art linen tied with silk ribbons, making it a very pretty affair.

Never allow your linens to go to the general wash. Take a morning to do them yourself. Make a lukewarm suds of white soap, and wash them through this carefully. Do not rub soap on the silks. For soiled places, put soap on your finger and rub into the spots. Carefully rinse in clear, cold water.

Have your irons heating while you are washing the pieces, and do not allow the latter to dry. Spread them smoothly upon an ironing-sheet, and cover with a piece of clean muslin. Iron first over this, and then remove and iron dry upon the wrong side; then turn over and pass your iron once or twice over the right side. Lay on a flat table to dry perfectly before putting them away.

A large pasteboard box, which will contain them without folding, is the best thing to keep them in.

Do not cut out your scalloped edges or fringe out edges until they have been washed the first time. Also, do not wring them; just squeeze out part of the water and sop out part of it on the ironing-sheet.



PAPER HANDKERCHIEF-CASE.

Some people wring the entire beauty out of their linens.

A nice sum could be made by some one who has the knack of laundering nicely by doing them up for other people.

There is no excuse for scorching them or fading the silks. I have pieces I have used two or three years, as beautiful as when first made.

Nun's cotton is now being combined in the same piece. The dull white of the cotton and the sheen of the silk combine to make a beautiful effect.

Be chary in the use of gold thread, or bullion, as it will tarnish. Use instead a gold-colored silk. LOUISE LONG CHRISTIE.



LACE FICHU.

and my sister Grace, who was sitting at the other side of the fireplace on an old chintz-covered ottoman, supporting her pretty chin in her pretty hands, said, without looking at me or any one, "I believe it's that striped wall-paper;" and our brother's wife, who was staying with us for the winter, said, "I believe it's that stove." Now, mother, dear old soul, who was resting for once, looked at us in amazement, so I repeated my remark, likewise did Belle and Grace, and mother's mystification increasing, we threw out a search-

COLLARS AND CUFFS.

Very pretty collars and cuffs are made from heavy insertion alternated with Valenciennes. Illustrations of two styles are given. Fig. 1 explains itself. In Fig. 2 is seen the new style of points, which turn over a high, close collar of silk or velvet.

Many ladies are making these of the lace braids, which will be illustrated in the next number.



FIG. 2.

THE RED BRAIN.

Dr. Cordelia Green, an eminent physician of forty-six years' constant practice, says, in speaking of this matter of intemperance: "Any one who tells you that a little alcoholic stimulant taken every day as a medicine can do you no harm tells an awful lie. No one can take as much as a tablespoonful of whisky every day without actual harm. Take a teaspoonful, and the blood at once flies to the face, which becomes red and flushed. The same thing which is happening in the face is taking place in the brain; it becomes red and flushed with blood. If the stimulant is continued for any length of time the eyes become red and bloodshot. This is because the tiny blood-vessels are overcrowded with blood, and after awhile, with all this overcrowding, the little capillaries become permanently enlarged. The same congestion and enlargement of these tiny blood-vessels which is seen taking place in the cheeks and at the back of the neck is taking place in all the delicate brain capillaries in an equal if not greater degree.

"It is well known to all physicians that if the blood-vessels in any organ are dilated it means diseased action. When the brain continues to be red and heated with alcoholic stimulants, the mind grows unsteady and confused. The little telegraph operators that send messages along the nerves can no longer attend to their duties. Eyes, lips, hands and feet work unsteadily under the control of a weak and unsteady master. I would never use alcoholic stimulants in any form, unless it were in cases of imminent danger, when it was necessary to raise an action like fever (for that is what the effect is), an action which excites first the brain, and through it every distant nerve and blood-vessel. After its use, it should be as carefully taken away as morphine, opium or arsenic.

"I do not believe there is a physician in the world who would not rather treat a patient who has been free from alcoholic stimulants in every form than a patient

ANSWER:—Potash is an important element of plants, and the best way to apply it to the soil is in the form of fresh wood ashes. Place a thin layer, say an eighth of an inch deep, over the surface, and incorporate it with the surface soil. As you water the plants the fertilizer will be extracted and carried to the roots in liquid form. A liquid fertilizer containing potash can be prepared by mixing fresh wood ashes with water and allowing them to settle. A pint of ashes is sufficient for a gallon of water. A fertilizer containing soda may be prepared from nitrate of soda. As this material varies in strength, and as some plants will bear more than others, it is well to use your own judgment in preparing, making the liquid weak at first and increasing its strength as you find the plants will bear it.

The best liquid fertilizer is one that contains ammonia. You can prepare it by adding a teaspoonful of spirits of ammonia to a gallon of water. This may be applied

IVORY SOAP

99 ⁴⁴/₁₀₀ PURE

Have you noticed when discussing household affairs with other ladies that each one has found some special use for Ivory Soap, usually the cleansing of some article that it was supposed could not be safely cleaned at home.

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO., CINCINNATI.

once a week, and will be found very beneficial in promoting growth of foliage.

An old-fashioned, but very serviceable, liquid fertilizer is prepared from stable manure. An open-end keg or barrel, with a bung or spigot near the closed end, is filled with manure, and as much water as it will hold. After standing for a day, the water is drawn off at the spigot and used, and fresh water poured on the manure. In this way the manure may be beneficially leached several times. This is, perhaps, the most useful of liquid fertilizers, as it contains many of the elements used by plants, and is easily prepared. The addition of a little lime to the manure when filling the keg will add to its value.

GETTING RID OF ROACHES.

"I tried every remedy I could hear of," writes a housewife, "and I was always inquiring. They seemed to fatten on my poison—at least their numbers did not suffer diminution. One day I took up an old almanac and idly turned its tattered yellow pages, and on the last fragment of a leaf came this: 'Equal portions of cornmeal and red lead, mixed with molasses and spread on plates, will destroy roaches.' And it did. I put it in several dishes and set them on the floor, and at nine o'clock stole softly out to see if they ate it. The dishes were so covered with roaches that the mixture was scarcely visible. The next night there were fewer at the feast, and in a week not a roach was seen. I lived seven years thereafter in the same house, and never saw one."

THE GREAT REFORMER IN A NEW RÔLE

Dr. Parkhurst and Young Men

In twelve familiar "talks" Dr. Parkhurst, the great New York preacher and reformer, will address himself to young men. A feature that will continue through the year of 1896 in



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FIG. 1.

who has been used to taking even a little every day. In my own practice, I find constantly that when I have taken the stimulant away, the patient has gained in a quiet, steady, nervous system, has grown more calm, reasonable and manageable, and has in every way improved faster without it."

FRANCES BENNETT CALLAWAY.

LIQUID FERTILIZERS FOR PLANTS.

MR. EDITOR:—Please tell how to prepare a liquid fertilizer that will be good for palms and other house-plants in pots. Would potash, soda, etc., dissolved in water and applied to said plants, do as a fertilizer? If so, which of the different chemicals should be used, and in what proportion to each gallon of water?

J. H. M.

New Jersey.

Our Household.

WILL.

There is no chance, no destiny, no fate,
Can circumvent, or hinder, or control,
The firm resolve of a determined soul.
Gifts count for nothing, will alone is great;
All things give way before it, soon or late.
What obstacle can stay the mighty force
Of the sea-seeking river in its course,
Or cause the ascending orb of day to wait?
Each well-born soul must win what it deserves.
Let the fool prate of luck! The fortunate
Is he whose earnest purpose never swerves,
Whose slightest action or inaction serves
The one great aim. Why, even death stands still
And waits an hour, sometimes, for such a will.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

HOME TOPICS.

GARDEN HINTS.—If you have no asparagus-bed, one of the most important things to be done this spring is to plant one. A bed may be started by planting the seed, but it will be three years before it will give any return if it is started from the seed, so it will doubtless be more satisfactory to buy at least fifty good, strong plants, and save time. The bed may be cut sparingly the second year after planting, and it will continue to give good returns for twenty years or more, with very little work. As asparagus will keep for several days after being cut, and bears transportation well, a bed of a few hundred plants will furnish quite an income, besides giving the family a delicious and healthful vegetable. Do not be content with raising only the common vegetables—corn, beans, peas, cabbage, etc.—but experiment with some new ones, in a small way at first, and be sure to get your seed from a reliable seedsman, who has an established reputation. If you have never raised egg-plant or okra, try some this year. I have never seen them growing in northern farm gardens, but they could be raised by starting the plants when the tomato is started, and planting out in a warm, sunny place after danger of frost is past. Okra is excellent in soups, and the tender pods may be sliced, dried in the shade, and kept for winter use.

VOTING-SCHOOLS.—About the time of the elections last fall, I read of voting-schools being taught in most of the cities. These held their sessions often in saloons, and were generally taught by ward politicians, and the main item of instruction was to make the voter recognize the ticket of the party he was desired to vote for, and to see that his ticket was folded and deposited in a legal manner. The great number of foreign and ignorant voters in this country necessitated something of the kind, but surely, no one would for a moment affirm that intelligent voters could be made in that way. While our present naturalization laws exist, I do not know as much can be done to remedy this evil, but our public schools can make intelligent voters of the boys. Along with United States history, lessons in municipal, state and national government should be given, and the leading differences between the great political parties be taught. Every teacher should inform herself about the so-called Australian ballot, and then instruct her pupils. There could be ballot-boxes, and the whole system and method of depositing the ballots be explained in such a way that the pupils would never forget it. The boys would enjoy it; and it would not hurt the girls, for they may wake up some fine morning, not far in the future, and find a ballot in their hands.



TWO PRETTY BLOUSES.

A CHAPTER ON FISH.

In selecting a fish, see that the flesh is firm when pressed by the finger, and the eyes full. If the fish is at all stale, the flesh will be flabby and the eyes sunken.

To remove the earthy or muddy taste, soak in strong salt-water a short time before cooking.

To clean fish, lay it on a board outdoors, take a dull knife, and holding the fish by the tail, with the knife held nearly flat,

scrape toward the head, then thoroughly rinse, and wipe dry. Cut off the head and fins, and remove the entrails. If there are any eggs, cook them with the fish.

Always cook your fish the same day you buy.

Fresh mackerel spoil quicker than almost any other.

To freshen salt fish, lay it skin side up, and always in an earthen vessel, never in tin.

In frying fish, have your lard very hot; lay in the fish, and as soon as browned on

the fish, and sew it up to keep its shape; dredge it over with corn-meal, and baste with the water in the pan that is salted. Bake slowly one hour. Garnish with celery-tops or parsley.

FISH CAKES.—Take cold boiled cod, either fresh or salt; add two thirds as much hot mashed potatoes as fish, a little butter, two or three well-beaten eggs, and enough milk to make a smooth paste, season with pepper. Make into nice, round cakes, and fry brown in sweet beef drippings or very clear, sweet lard.



BECOMING ARRANGEMENT OF THE HAIR.

one side, turn over; when that side is brown, move the skillet to the back part of the stove, cover closely, and let it cook slowly. In this way it retains its sweetness.

Garnishes for fish are sliced beets, parsley, lettuce leaves and hard-boiled eggs.

In shredding codfish or other salt fish, use a small, three-tined steel fork.

You must use plenty of lard in frying fish, never butter.

If you have not a fish-kettle to boil fish in, it must be carefully tied in thin swiss or cambric to preserve the shape.

FRIED FISH.—The proper method of frying fish is simply boiling in lard. French cooks never use butter in frying, as the color is not good, but give the preference to beef fat. The great secret of success is to have the fat the proper temperature before putting in the fish. Experienced cooks know just when the boiling-point is

CODFISH BALLS.—Take the fish and potatoes that are left from a meal and a grated piece of bread, mash them well together in a pan; season with butter, pepper, a little sage and thyme, then moisten with sweet cream sufficiently to mix it into balls. Roll in flour, and fry in boiling lard until very brown.

To Cook Codfish.—Cut the quantity you want in large pieces, and put to soak in cold water. After two or three hours, or over night, it will be softened so it can be readily picked in small pieces with a fork. Put on to cook in tepid water; when it comes to a boil, turn off, and put on other hot water. When done, stir into it a thickening made of cream and flour; if only milk can be had, use a piece of butter.

BECOMING ARRANGEMENT OF THE HAIR FOR A YOUNG GIRL.

Standing with reluctant feet
Where the brook and river meet.

The sweetest time in a girl's life, but for the mother a very trying one. Hardly old enough for womanly ways and dress, and yet perhaps too tall for the little girls' styles either of hair or dress.

The illustration gives a very sweet arrangement of the hair for a youthful face, and if the dresses are still opened in the back, no one will mistake that she is yet a little girl.

The pretty neck decorations now worn are an addition to any toilet, and with a large, white yoke collar of any material, any gown will look well at home. Silk may be employed, if desired, with the lace underneath. Some of the girls are utilizing their old silk waists in this way, finishing the edge with points bound with bias silk, and using a narrower lace to peep out underneath.

Pretty accessories to toilets may be made of swiss and lace insertion. Fichus of silk mull, with lace and ribbon trimmings, are also very effective.

TWO PRETTY BLOUSES.

The first is of brocade silk in the bodice and satin sleeves. The silks come in very large-fledged patterns of leaves and foliage, and are very handsome, costing a dollar and a half a yard.

The second is of changeable glaze silk or chameleon silk, and is of a light color, to use as an evening costume.

Both are easily made at home, over a well-fitting waist lining.

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This is the
CUPID
hair pin. It has a double set of spiral curves and will not slip out of the hair. It is made by Richardson & DeLong Bros., manufacturers of the famous DeLONG HOOK and EYE.



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\$250.00 FOR 4 FLOWER BEDS.

The following is the greatest collection ever offered for variety of colors, and I will pay \$100 to person who grows the largest number of colors from it; \$75 to second; \$50 to third; and \$25 to fourth. It will surprise you, and make a very interesting flower bed.
1 pkt. Alice Penny—all colors mixed, simply grand.
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1 pkt. Everlasting Flowers—all colors, flowers kept for yrs.
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2 bulbs Excelior Pearl Tuberoses—sure to bloom early.
4 bulbs Gladiolus, one each of White, Pink, Scarlet, Variegated
3 bulbs Gladiolus, fancy mixed, lovely spikes, all colors.
1 bulb Gladiolus, Lemoine, earliest of all, butterfly colors.
3 bulbs Oxalis—sure to bloom—lovely color for borders.
These 10 pkts. of seed and 13 choice bulbs (worth \$1.30), will all flower this season, and make a wonderful flower bed of many colors. I will send them with my 1890 catalogue, Pansy Calendar, full instructions for prices and how to get the most colors, for 30 cents (silver or M. O.) Or at once, and you will be more than pleased. My catalogue shows a photo of such a bed. "Cupid" Sweet Peas, the Floral Wonder, Free with each order. F. B. MILLS, Box 128, ROSE HILL, N. Y.

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Pearl glass, pearl top, tough glass.

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Dr. Isaac Thompson's EYE WATER
Relieved with SORE EYES

Our Sunday Afternoon.

TRIFLES.

Each plaintive note made by the flute
Amid the orchestra, though sweet,
Is scarcely heard, yet if once mute
The music would be incomplete.

Each wave that heats against the rock,
And spends itself in empty spray,
Seems wasted, yet in time the shock
Has helped to wear the cliff away.

Each little soul that loveth still,
Through joy, through pain, through grief,
Through mirth,
That trusteth through all show of ill,
Hath brought God's heaven nearer earth.
—Norley Chester.

THE WIFE'S SIDE OF IT.

Now I'll tell you why I wouldn't go into the refreshment-room and have a cup of coffee with you while we were waiting for the train. I didn't like the way you asked me. Not half an hour before, you said to Mr. Jones, 'Come, let's get a cigar,' and away you went, holding his arm and not giving him a chance to decline. When we met Mr. Robinson on our way to luncheon, you said, 'Just in time, John; come take lunch with us.' And then to-night, when we found that the train was an hour late, you looked at your watch, turned to me, and said in a questioning way, 'Would you like a cup of coffee?' And I didn't want it; I was tired and a little hungry, but I would have fainted before I would have accepted such an invitation. And you went away a little bit vexed with me, and had whatever you did have by yourself, and didn't enjoy it very much. In effect you said to me, 'If you want a cup of coffee—if you really want it—I will buy it for you.' You are the best husband in the world, but you do as nearly all the best husbands in the world do. Why do you men seem to dole things out to your wives when you fairly throw them to the men you know? Why don't you invite me as heartily as you invite men? Why didn't you say, 'Come, let's get a little coffee and something,' and take me at once with you? You don't say to a man, 'Would you like me to go and buy you a cigar?' Then why do you always issue your little invitations to treats in that way to me? Indeed, if men would only act toward their wives as heartily, cordially, frankly as they do toward the men they meet, they would find cheerier companions at home than they could at the club."

ENJOYMENT AT HOME.

Do not shut up your house, lest the sun should fade your carpets, and your hearts, lest a merry laugh should shake down some of the dusty old cobwebs there. If you want to ruin your sons, let them think that all mirth and social enjoyment must be left on the threshold without, when they come home at night. When once a home is regarded as only a place to eat, drink and sleep, the work is begun that ends in reckless degradation. Young people must have fun and relaxation somewhere; and if they do not have it at their own hearthstone, it will be sought at another, and perhaps at less profitable places. Therefore, let the fire burn brightly at night, and make the homestead delightful with all those little arts that parents so perfectly understand.

Do not repress the buoyant spirit of your children; half an hour of merriment around the lamp and firelight of a home blots out many a care and annoyance during the day; and the best safeguard they can take with them into the world is the unseen influence of a bright little domestic circle. Put home first and foremost, for there will come a time when the home circle will be broken; when you will "long for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still;" and when your greatest pleasure will be in remembering that you did all in your power to put a song under every burden to make each other happy.—*Albany Journal.*

STEPPING ON A SHADOW.

One dark night a man who was about to leave a steamboat saw what he supposed to be a gang-plank, but it was only a shadow. He stepped out upon it, and of course fell into the water below. He thought he was taking the right way, but his thinking so

could not make any difference in the result, so long as he really did take it. Just so in matters of greater importance. You must be right, not merely suppose you are right, if you are to avoid the evil consequences of wrong-doing. This man might have put it to proof whether it was the gang-plank or not, before trusting himself upon it. Do not be like him, but test your beliefs, and see if they are all well grounded. Many a young man has been ruined by a course of conduct which at first he felt would do him no harm. Many a man has followed his own notions of what is right, instead of taking God's word as a guide, and has found, when too late, that he had stepped upon a shadow and fallen.

IT WORKS WELL.

Dr. George F. Pentecost has given the "higher critics" a little problem. One of them lately approached him with the argument that we cannot accept as true any book of which the author is unknown. The Pentateuch must be cast into the intellectual cavern of doubt, because we don't know that Moses wrote the five books. We must not credit the book of Isaiah, because the prophet of that name did not write the whole of it. "Did you ever happen," said Dr. Pentecost to the doubter, "to see a little mathematical treatise called the multiplication table?" He had. "Do you regard it as a work of authority?" He did, of course. "Well, do you know its author?" The man collapsed. "My friend," said Dr. Pentecost, "let us say that we know that the Bible is an authority, whether or not we know the human authors, because it works well."—*Cynosure.*

PRAYING AT PEOPLE.

Public prayer addressed to God and aimed at the congregation neither gains his ear nor persuades them. It not only falls short of being pious, but it is not manly. At a recent religious convention, when one of the brothers, rising after an address by another brother, attempted to demolish his arguments in a form of prayer, he left the impression on some of the hearers that he was afraid to stand up manfully and reply to what had been said. Once when a young minister, who was displeased with the conduct of some of his people, had expressed in public prayer his opinion of their actions, a good sister said to him: "When you want to scold us, do so, but don't spoil our devotions by praying at us." He has since said that that was some of the most valuable advice he ever received.—*New York Christian Advocate.*

THE LAWS OF HEALTH.

The true secret of health and long life lies in very simple things:
Court the fresh air day and night. "Oh, if you knew what was in the air!"
Sleep and rest abundantly. Sleep is nature's benediction. "Work like a man; but don't be worked to death."
Avoid passion and excitement. A moment's anger may be fatal.
Associate with healthy people. Health is contagious as well as disease.
Don't carry the whole world on your shoulders, far less the universe. Trust the Eternal.
Never despair. "Lost hope is a fatal disease."—*Chicago Medical Times.*

THE BEST TIME.

"The best time to clear up a misunderstanding with a brother is before sunset."
"The best time to do good is whenever we have a chance to do it."
"The best time to pray is when we don't feel like it."
"The best time to praise is when we are in danger of backsliding."
"The best time to let your light shine for the Lord is when things all about you look the darkest."
"The best time to avoid temptation is when you feel the strongest."

A TEMPTING OFFER.

We will give you twelve silver spoons or a gold ring worth \$2.00, if you will sell a dollar's worth of our household goods to your neighbors. Everybody needs them, so you can easily sell within an hour. Send us your name and full address, we will send goods, post-paid, and will mail the present after you have sold them. Address Rex Company, 1111 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Cobwebs
are usually a sign that a woman has more than enough to do; that all her time and strength are utilized in doing heavy work; that she don't use
GOLD DUST Washing Powder.
If she did use this great cleaner, her heavy work would be so lightened that the little things needn't be neglected. Gold Dust gives a woman time to rest, time to go, time to read, and time to sew. Every farmer's wife should have a supply of this great help.
GOLD DUST WASHING POWDER has an additional value to the farmer for destroying insects. Send us your name and address and we will mail you an important booklet containing recipes for making Kerosene Emulsions, for spraying crops and trees and livestock.
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Our Farm.

EXPERIENCE WITH AN ARTESIAN WELL.

WE have about three and one half acres of strawberries, raspberries and blackberries growing on a rather sandy soil; the ground is nearly level. In 1893, after the dry weather had ruined most of our berries, we put down an artesian well for irrigating; it has a four-inch pipe placed in the center of the patch. The well is 280 feet deep. The water will raise about ten feet above the ground, and will throw 150 barrels of water per hour at the well, but when running through a lot of pipe and hose the amount is considerably less. Well, hose, pipe, etc., cost about \$255.

Last summer we commenced irrigating the last of May and kept it up for three months. We did not have any rain to speak of during that time. We have 225 feet of two-inch iron pipe which we attach to the well, laying it on the ground out into the berry-patch, then we put seventy-five feet of two-inch hose on the end of the pipe, thoroughly soaking the ground as far as the hose will reach each side of the pipe, by taking off two or three lengths of pipe at a time, gradually working back to the well, then lay the pipe in another direction until the piece is all gone over. It took one man most of the time to handle the water, taking about a week to irrigate the three and one half acres. The ground was then thoroughly cultivated, and we immediately commenced irrigating again. Remember, this was an exceptionally hot and dry summer. The same amount of water would have irrigated a much larger area in an ordinary season. The result was we had very nice berries, large and juicy. Every berry developed; the last berries were nearly as large as the first. Our plants are in excellent condition for next year. Berries across the road from ours, on the same kind of soil, were nearly a failure, and the plants for next year were nearly dried up; you might say there were none, only a stem with a few green leaves on top. Although the heavy frosts the first of June killed about one half of our berries, we sold nearly \$500 worth from three and one half acres.

The water, testing about fifty degrees in temperature, did not injure the plants in the least. Those nearest the well got the most water, and, of course, the coldest (as it did not have to run over hot sand before reaching them), but they seemed to have the largest growth and bore the largest berries.—E. E. Wolcott, in Wisconsin Horticultural Report.

EARLY GROWTH.

The effect of early neglect can never be counterbalanced by later care. The stunted pig will never make a full-sized hog; the stunted calf never a really good cow. Growth of all animals in early life is made far more rapidly, and out of far less material, proportionately, than growth at a more advanced age. This is true of cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, and even dogs. In other words, meat in a young animal can be produced at far less cost, pound for pound, than in an older one. It is wasteful to produce those mountains of tallowy steers, three or four years old, and hogs that are nothing but enormous chunks of grease.

The following is quoted from the *Breeders' Gazette*: "Repeated tests at the fat-stock show have demonstrated that a nicely ripened, long yearling or a fat two-year-old steer will cut up to infinitely greater advantage on the block than the one thousand seven hundred pound bullocks. One thing is sure, ripe, tidy, sappy young steers of the sort now preferred by the butchers cannot be produced except by the use of good blood. The sooner American feeders abandon the big three and four year old cattle, the better for all parties concerned. Baby beef has come to stay, and it can only be advantageously produced by securing well-bred calves to start with and by forcing them rapidly forward. The older a steer grows, the more feed required to produce a pound of gain. Good, thrifty calves of the right type will make wonderful weights at an early age, if the 'heyday of their youth' is not frittered away around empty feed-troughs, on barren pastures, or in seeking shelter from wintry storms alongside a wire fence."

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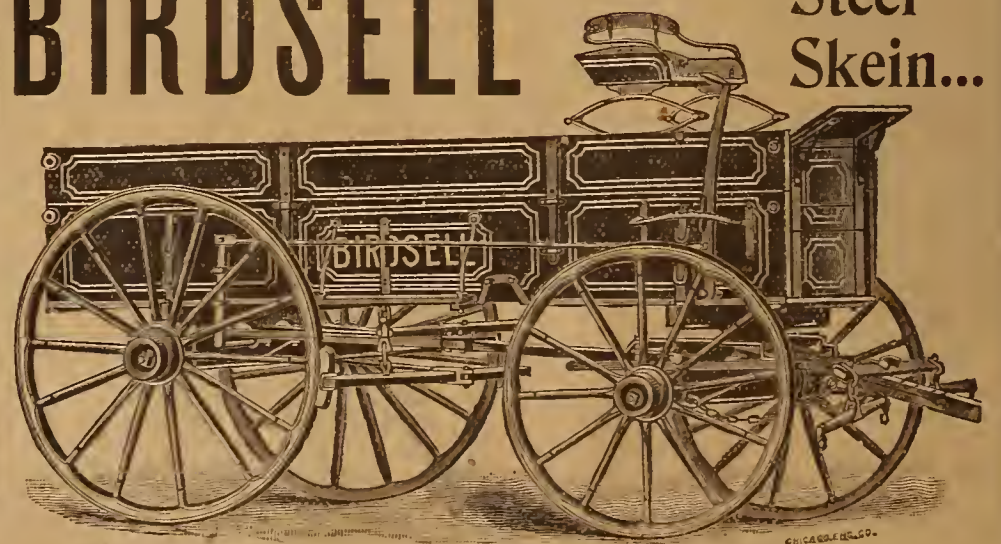


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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Fertilizer.—R. Y. R., Petersburg, Ky., writes: "I want to sow, about April next, one dollar's worth of fertilizer and one eighth of a bushel of clover-seed to the acre, on wheat sowed last September. What is the best fertilizer, the soil being sandy?"

REPLY:—Probably an application of nitrate of soda will give you as good results as any fertilizer you could use under the conditions named.

Potato-scab.—W. T. D., Ottawa, Kan., writes: "My potatoes were very scabby last year, although grown on sandy, loam land never planted in potatoes before. Will it do to plant on the same ground this year? Will it do to use scabby seed?"

REPLY:—The cause of scab is a fungous disease, about which there is much to be learned. Plant on new ground, and use commercial fertilizers instead of stable manure. Soak the scabby seed for ninety minutes in a solution made by dissolving two ounces of corrosive sublimate in hot water, afterward diluted to fifteen gallons with cold water. Use the solution in a wooden vessel, and handle it with care, as it is poisonous.

Clover.—R. A. B., Gravett, Ark., writes: "I wish to sow some kind of clover on my place. The land will produce about eighteen bushels of corn to the acre if well cultivated. It is what is called a mulatto soil, with a red clay subsoil. What clover would you recommend as certain to make a stand and at the same time serve to fertilize the land, and be good to graze hogs on? I was thinking of selecting one of the following varieties: Japan, crimson or red clover."

REPLY:—For the purposes named, common red clover is the best for you to sow. Crimson clover is an annual. Sown in midsummer, it ripens a crop of seed the following June, and then dies. It is a wonderful fertilizer, and would probably do well in your climate and on your soil. It is well worth your while to experiment with it, and adapt your plans to its nature as an annual.

Asparagus Culture.—L. B., Virginia Dale, Col. Asparagus thrives best on a deep, warm, sandy loam, enriched by heavy applications of well-composted stable manure. Make the soil fine and mellow. Run furrows five or six feet apart, ten inches deep. Scatter well-rotted manure in the furrows, cover and mix with soil. Set out good one-year-old plants three feet apart, so that the crowns will be about six inches below the ground-level. Cover the plants with two inches of soil and compost, and then fill the furrow gradually during cultivation. Keep the bed well cultivated and free from weeds. Some garden crop may be raised between the rows during the first season. Every fall remove the tops before the seed falls. Mulch with stable manure for winter protection. Every spring give an application of salt. After the second season the bed may be cut two or three times. If you cannot readily procure plants from seedsmen, you can grow them from the seed sown in early spring. Pour hot water on the seed, and let it soak in a warm place for a day. Sow thinly in drills one foot apart, and thin out to three inches apart. If sown on rich, mellow soil and well cultivated, the seedling plants may be set out permanently the next spring.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Note.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column, must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

A Sore Back.—A. H. H., Berea, Ohio. Free the sore place on your horse's back from any pressure whatsoever, and by all means remove the pad, by which the pressure is not only increased, but concentrated upon the sore spot.

A Wart.—L. M. P., Barronvale, Pa. If, as you say, the wart on your heifer's neck is as large as a hen's egg, and has a plainly developed neck, you can best remove it by means of a ligature, made either with a good waxed end of a shoemaker or with a thin rubber tube, to be applied as tight and as close to the skin as possible.

An Extra Opening in the Teat of a Cow.—W. A. H., Balfour, Pa. If the extra opening at the side of the teat is scarified and then touched with a stick of nitrate of silver, a healing will probably be effected, provided the operation is performed while the cow is dry. I would advise you, though, to have the operation performed by a veterinarian.

Defective, Diseased or Worn-out Teeth.—M. G. S., Sirocco, Ky. There is hardly any doubt that the decline of your twenty-two-year-old mare, and the dropping and rejection of the greatest part of her food is due to defective, diseased or worn-out and missing teeth. If you cannot do it yourself, have her mouth examined by a veterinarian, and then act according to the result of the examination.

Attacks of Colic.—J. M. P., Muff, Pa. It is possible that the attacks of colic were caused by a mechanical obstruction, maybe an intestinal stone or concrement. Still, wheat straw is a very poor food for horses, especially for a brood-mare, and it is by no means impossible that nothing else brought on the attacks. Feed good hay instead of it, and then feed oats and corn, whole, and not as chop-food.

Lice on Sheep.—J. B., White Sands, Can. While the sheep are in full wool you cannot do very much. The best, probably, is to dust genuine Persian insect-powder into the carefully parted wool so that it comes in contact with the skin. A small flock may thus be cleaned, but with a large flock it will be a rather tedious job. In the spring, after the sheep have been shorn, it will be best to dip them like sheep that have scab.

Grease-heel.—T. M. E., Manchester, Tenn. There is hardly any prospect of curing an old case of grease-heel of several years' standing, except, perhaps, where the treatment is constantly superintended by a competent veterinarian.

A Hard "Bunch."—F. O., Ridgebury, Pa. It is impossible to find out from your description what the hard "bunch," as large as a hickory-ut, and situated at the point of the stifle of your horse, may be and what may have produced it. It is possible that it is a tumor that can be excised. As your horse is not lame, you may leave the "bunch" alone as long as it does not grow. If you wish to have it removed, you will have to call on a veterinarian to do it.

Hard Swelling—Soft Swelling—"Wolf-teeth."—M. H. D., Leeland, Va. The hard swelling is permanent, and cannot be removed, but may gradually decrease in size as the colt gets older. The soft swellings which you mention, but fail to state where located, are probably innocent wind-galls. As to so-called "wolf-teeth," they are either small supernumerary teeth or remnants of the first pair of milk-molars, which remained unabsorbed when the permanent molars cut through, and have no connection whatever with the eyes or with eye diseases.

Too Much Corn Fodder—An Accident.—M. B. B., Heddelsburg, Pa. Yes, I should think that sheep just as well as other animals can eat more corn fodder than is good for them, especially if the fodder contains a good many wilted leaves and smutty nubbings. As to the injury of your horse, caused by getting a foot over a rope, allow me to say that any wound on a horse's leg below the horny wart, unless brought to healing by first intention, that is, without any suppuration, will leave behind a horny scar, which in time may contract and thus get a little smaller, but otherwise will be permanent.

Trouble with Pigs.—C. S., Cullman, Ala. The trouble you complain of, tenderness and red blotches in the skin, apparent contraction of the tendons and difficulty to move, seem to be caused, in your case, by the kind of food you give, and by too close confinement. Cooked peas and a little corn are no food for pigs. The peas, which appear the principal food, undoubtedly constitute the main cause of the trouble. Similar symptoms, it is true, can also be produced by trichinosis, but in your case this is not probable unless your pigs have feasted on dead rats or pigs, or have been fed with the offal of a slaughter-house.

A Swelling.—M. A. P., Rich Square, N. C. The swelling on the inside of your mare's leg, just below the knee, it seems, has either been caused by interfering after a long and hard drive, or maybe is a splint. In either case, see that the mare is made to stand straight and square on her feet by judicious paring, or, if necessary, by proper shoeing. If the swelling is the result of interfering, continued applications of cold water or ice—but too late now—would have constituted the most rational treatment. If the swelling has not yet disappeared, you may rub in once a day, but in a most thorough manner, a little (about the size of a pea) gray mercurial ointment.

Lung-worms—Liver-flukes.—Your sheep were diseased before you bought them. They must have been grazing on low and wet ground, where, during the summer, they had an opportunity to pick up not only the brood of the lung-worms, *Strongylus filaria*, but also the brood of the liver-fluke, *Distomum hepaticum*. Unfortunately, there is no remedy for either one of these two diseases, which, with the exception of "free wool," are the greatest known curse to sheep-raising. Only those of your sheep which are very strong and vigorous will survive; all others that show plain symptoms of sickness, but particularly all which have an edematous swelling beneath the lower jaw, are bound to die.

Inveterate Scratches or Grease-heel.—J. C., Huntsville, Ark. If the case is too inveterate and the destruction already very great, you will have to employ a veterinarian. If not, keep the horse in a dry and clean place and out of mud, water and manure; do not use any water for cleaning if the feet should be dirty, but do it with a dry brush, and make daily two or three liberal applications of the following mixture to all the sore parts; namely, liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts. This mixture, if liberally applied, will also remove all dirt and no water will be needed. After all sores have healed, and some swelling remains, the same is best reduced by bandages during the night and exercise in daytime. If you continue your irrational treatment you will succeed in killing your horse.

Grease-heel—Condition-powders.—J. F. C., Fox, Ala. Scratches or grease-heel, essentially the same, and differing only in degree, are apt to make their appearance where the lower extremities of horses are too much, too often or too long exposed to the influence of wet, dirt, manure or filth, and not properly cleaned. As to the treatment, I have to refer you to what has been said under the heading, "Inveterate Scratches or Grease-heel," in this column. The best condition-powder, which, if properly used, will make all others superfluous, consists of good oats and good hay in sufficient quantities, combined with grooming, pure air to breathe, pure and fresh water to drink and suitable exercise. It is the only condition-powder that will put and keep a horse in a first-class condition.

Worms.—H. S., White Pigeon, Mich.; A. W. C., Greenwich Village, Mass.; I. D. C., Ipswich, S. D. The worms which trouble your horses, and which you describe as pointed at both ends and two inches in length, are probably the mature forms of the kind known as *Sclerostomum equinum*. Sexually matured, these worms are found in the large intestines, and when their time comes they pass off with the excrements of their host. In the intestines they do not seem to do much damage, but in their immature form, in which they inhabit the anterior mesenteric artery and branches of the posterior aorta, the damage done is a great one, because in that form they produce the very dangerous aneurisms (morbid enlargements of arteries) so frequent in the anterior mesenteric artery of horses and mules, and constituting the most frequent predisposing cause of colic. These worms while in the arteries cannot be touched or removed by anything, and after they have left the arteries, arrived at maturity and passed into the large intestines, coecum, colon and rectum, their damage has been done. Consequently, the object must be not so much to expel them from the intestines as to prevent a new invasion of the worm-brood (the larvae) into the arteries, where the damage is done; therefore, as the young brood produced by the mature worms, after they have passed off with the dung, is washed into low places, pools and ditches, and even wells that contain surface-water, etc., the means of prevention consists in not allowing horses and mules to graze on low and wet grounds and to drink the water of pools, ditches and very shallow wells; especially low and wet places on which horses have been pastured while discharging the mature worms with their excrements must, for obvious reasons, be avoided.

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DR. A. OWEN'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES



99 TIMES OUT OF 100

...A FEW APPLICATIONS OF THE...

OWEN ELECTRIC BELT

CURES A SEVERE CASE OF LUMBAGO.

DR. A. OWEN:
Dear Sir:—When I called at your office I had but little faith that your appliances would do me any good. For years I had been ailing with lumbago; my back would be so bad at times that I would have to keep my bed for three weeks at a time. After a few applications of your belt I found relief, and for the last two months have not had any backache at all. I had tried many different remedies, but received no relief until I tried the Owen Electric Belt, which I cheerfully recommend to the afflicted. Yours respectfully,
THOMAS M'GAHEN.

CHICAGO, December 3, 1895.

No. 157 Exchange Building, U. S. Y.

OWEN ELECTRIC BELT CO.:
Gentlemen:—It affords me much pleasure to declare that from personal experience and observation it has been my good fortune to see many women who were nervous and debilitated from overwork or weaknesses peculiar to their sex, benefited beyond calculation by your electrical appliances so scientifically constructed and adapted to their especial needs.
HARRIET E. BIRCHMORE, M. D., Room 54, 241 State Street.

CHICAGO, November 2, 1895.

Whether you think of buying or not we will be pleased to have you call at our office and inspect our appliances or send for our large illustrated catalogue giving full information.

THE OWEN ELECTRIC APPLIANCE CO.,
205 TO 211 STATE STREET, CHICAGO.

Our Miscellany.

BEST steel castings made for the United States navy have a tenacity of 65,000 to 75,000 pounds to the square inch.

REED pens, split at the end like quill pens, have been found in Egyptian tombs, dating probably 2,500 years before Christ.

THERE are certain manners which are learned in good society, of that force that, if a person have them, he or she must be considered, and is everywhere welcome, though without beauty or wealth or genius.

THE ancient Chinese and Japanese frequently used to draw pictures with their thumb-nails. The nails were allowed to grow to a length of some eighteen inches, and were pared to a point and dipped in vermilion or sky-blue ink.

WE have just received the January issue of *The Coil Spring Hustler*, and find it full of interesting matter pertaining to fencing. If any of our readers are not receiving that paper, a copy will be mailed them gratuitously by addressing the Page Fence Co., Adrian, Mich.

THE modern Greek women have lost much of the distinguishing regularity of feature which renders the race so remarkable for beauty. Like Spanish females, they marry at a very early age, they are short-lived, and begin to exhibit the marks of age soon after twenty-five.

By far the best method of suppressing the smoke nuisance is to improve the combustion in a furnace. A device recently tried in Glasgow consists of a door of peculiar construction that sets up eddies in the gases, and thus delays the progress of the smoke until it has been burned up. Practical tests showed the most satisfactory results.

To brighten and freshen carpets, sprinkle them with tea-leaves or wet papers, and sweep thoroughly but lightly. Grease spots may be drawn out by covering the places with coarse brown or butcher's paper, and then passing over them a warm flatiron. Put a little ox-gall in a pan of warm water, and with a fresh cloth, wrung quite dry, again go over the carpet. To prevent moths under carpets, use coarsely ground black pepper mixed with camphor, and strew thickly about the edges or wherever the moths are to be found.—*New York Sun*.

FARMERS who are aware of the benefit accruing to wheat, potato and corn crops by harrowing them immediately after the plants have appeared above the surface of the ground, and when the young weeds are in the most tender state, could not do better than to investigate the merits of the Lean All Steel Harrow made by the Roderick Lean Mfg. Co., of Mansfield, Ohio, whose advertisement has no doubt been noticed in another column of FARM AND FIRESIDE. This harrow is highly recommended for general farm and garden work by the thousands of progressive tillers of the soil who are using it, and farmers needing a harrow for any possible kind of work on the farm will make no mistake in corresponding with this firm, which is reliable in every sense of the word, before making their purchase.

TEACH BY BIOGRAPHY.

A great preacher recently said that we should teach more and more by biography, placing before children the great examples of persons' lives which represent great things. Such examples encourage and inspire young men and women to strive on in the face of adversity and overcome all obstacles.

"To all Americans the life of George Washington is the noblest, the grandest and the most influential in all our history, and ranks beside the most illustrious characters that have ever lived."

The first, the last, the best,
The Cincinnati of the West.

A GRAND OPPORTUNITY.

WE will give you a beautiful gold ring, with setting of real Ferra diamonds (warranted), absolutely free if you will sell a dollar's worth of our goods to your friends. Send us your name and address—we will forward the goods; when you sell them, send us \$1 in settlement, and get the valuable ring. A. B. COURTNEY & Co., 113 Munroe street, Lynn, Mass.

TOUCHING DEVOTION OF A KING.

The devotion of the venerable king and queen of Denmark for each other is described as positively touching. During the time of the queen's illness, which lasted something like three months, no one about the court was allowed to see her save her husband, a lady in waiting and the physician in ordinary. The king was ceaseless in his devotion. He rarely went out, save when duty compelled, abandoned his customary exercise, and passed hours every day reading to his wife or playing cards and chess with her, and telling her what was going on in the world outside.—*Chicago Tribune*.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR.

I have a sure, quick remedy. To prove it, I will send a \$1.00 bottle, sealed, free. Address Mrs. J. De Vere, P. O. Box 494, Philadelphia, Pa.

VALUE OF CATALPA-TREES.

As shade-trees they are especially desirable about the home lot. They are of rapid growth, and are easily grown from the seed; their broad leaves, while adding much to their beauty, are better adapted for shading than those of any other trees; their flowers, while in season, are both pretty and fragrant; the trees will bear "cutting in" better than most others, and can be pruned even to the trunks every season, if desirable, and will but throw out the better growth, their vigor is so great. Freshly pruned, they present the first season quite a unique appearance with great clusters of tropical-like leaves that soon develop into branches.

Every farmer who has raised the trees knows that they make the best fence-posts, and that a fence thus provided will outlast three others, the wood is so indestructible. Branches trimmed from the main stem and used as props for Lima beans in the garden have been in use many years, and are as good as ever. It is said to be the firmest and best wood for the use of railroad ties, and for whatever other use an indestructible wood is needed.

Why, then, should we not grow more catalpa-trees? They are good shade-trees for the street, invaluable at home for the same purpose, while as ornamental trees they have always won favor. I never look at the great trunk of some old catalpa-tree but I think of the boon it will some day be to the economical fence-maker; that is, if fences are in vogue in the future.—*Vick's Magazine*.

KNOWS THE BIBLE BY HEART, SAVE TWO CHAPTERS.

A Baptist minister named W. C. Hicks has been preaching at different points in this county for the past two or three weeks. He is a remarkable man in some respects, and claims that he received his education at Columbia. He is between twenty-five and thirty years of age, and has been a student of the Bible since early childhood. The *Spectator* has been informed by reliable men that he has committed to memory every chapter in the Scriptures, with but two exceptions. In order to test the reliability of his claim, his Bible is closed, and chapter after chapter is called, and he repeats them word for word. His church members are not particularly pleased with his construction of many passages of the Bible. Mr. Hicks differs from Moses in the account of the flood and the creation, and ridicules, so we understand, some of the old patriarch's statements. Large crowds attend the services, curiosity being the principal object.—*Columbia Spectator*.

A HOG THAT COST \$1,500.

"An item in the *Sun* the other day, from a Chicago newspaper, stated that \$800 had been paid for a hog by an Iowa breeder, and that it was the highest price ever paid for a hog in the United States," said a Wayne county, Pa., mau. "Now, the Chicago newspaper was wrong. In 1874, Frank Grennell, of Honesdale, in our county, paid \$1,500 for 'Rob Roy,' a registered Berkshire boar. Grennell had a stock-farm near Honesdale, his specialty being Berkshire pigs. He had other high-priced hogs of this stock, including a sow that cost him over \$900. He sold new-horn pigs from his sty for \$100 each. His craze for this royal and costly strain of swine, however, was his ruin. He was tetter in a Honesdale bank. One day certain irregularities were found in his accounts, and it developed that he had used several thousand dollars of the bank's funds. The money had been spent on his pig-breeding fad, as he believed it would result in making his fortune. He fled after the discovery of his speculation, and the costly hogs were sold for little more than ordinary every-day pork."

PERSONALLY CONDUCTED EXCURSIONS TO CALIFORNIA.

Via the Chicago, Union Pacific & North-Western Line, in upholstered tourist sleeping cars, leave Chicago every Thursday via the North-Western Line. Low rates, picturesque route, quickest time and careful attention are advantages offered to those who join these excursions. Cost of berth only \$6.00. Ask your nearest ticket agent for full particulars or address

C. Traver, T. P. A., Marine National Bank Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

D. W. Aldridge, T. P. A., 127 The Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio.

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD READ.

In opening a public library the other day, the lord chancellor of England said that, although seventy-five per cent might read fiction, it was worth while establishing the institution for twenty-five per cent of thoughtful readers, while the moderate reading of fiction was by no means an evil.

Kaffir Corn

is the best fodder crop that grows. The stalks and leaves are as good as green Corn fodder AND WILL REMAIN EVERGREEN through the driest summer and fall. Other Valuable Forage Crops: ESSEX RAPE, VETCHES, SANDVETCH, etc. We mail 1 Pkt. each, 4 kinds with our 116 page complete Seed Catalogue for 14c-7, 2 cent stamps.

VAUGHAN'S SEED STORE,
26 BARCLAY ST., NEW YORK. 84 & 86 RANDOLPH ST., CHICAGO.

VIOLETS.

White, sweet-scented violets do well for quite a number of years planted where there are apt to be bad places in the sod, and will always thrive if the grass does not crowd them too closely. Everyone will know their value too well not to appreciate this modest little flower, the very sweetest of all spring blossoms. Spending some weeks at one time in an Iowa city and its suburbs, I was much pleased at the beautifully kept yards and lawns of that place. I noted here in a number of the yards, clumps of white, fragrant grass-plinks standing out distinctly from the surrounding green of the nicely kept sod. The foliage being of that peculiarly blue-green, and rising up in round, pretty clumps or little mounds, made them especially pretty, and the fact of their being in full bloom at the time added to their pleasing effect.

Blue grape hyacinths flourish best in sod places, and will always furnish bloom, their slender little spikes of blue and white bells appearing as faithfully as spring comes, and the delicate foliage is quite as pretty as the grass around them.—*Vick's Magazine*.

"DO NOTS" FOR THE DRIVER.

Lord Hampden, who presided at a recent dinner of the London Cab-drivers' Benevolent Association, commended to the members the following lines, which, he said, he had hung up in his own stables:

Up hill—whip me not.
Down hill—hurry me not.
Loose in stable—forget me not.
Of hay and corn—rob me not.
Of clean water—stint me not.
With sponge and brush—neglect me not.
Of soft, dry bed—deprive me not.
Tired or hot—leave me not.
Sick or old—chill me not.
With bit and reins—oh! jerk me not.
When you are angry—strike me not.
With tight check-rein—torture me not.

The only scientific cure for the Tobacco habit.

Cures when all other remedies fail. (Write for proofs).

Does not depend on the willpower of the user. It is the Cure. Vegetable and harmless.

Directions are clear: "Use all the Tobacco you want until Baco-Curo notifies you to stop."

Is the Original Written Guarantee Remedy that refunds your money if it fails to cure.

Does the Curing. Its Competitors do the Blowing.

Investigate Baco-Curo before you buy any remedy for the Tobacco Habit.

The U. S. Courts have just decided that

BACO-CURO

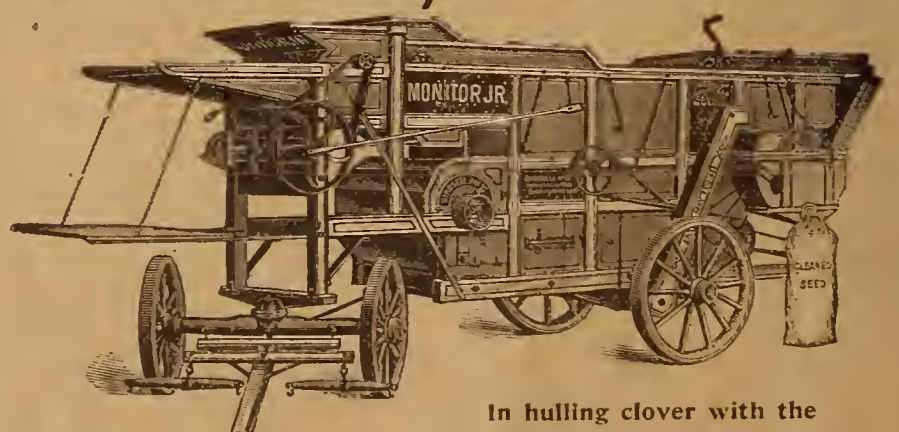
Is what it Pretends to be
A CURE.

WHICH DO YOU WANT? A CURE OR A SUBSTITUTE?

One box \$1.00; three boxes (and guaranteed cure) \$2.50, at all druggists, or sent direct on receipt of price. Write for free booklet and proofs. EUREKA CHEMICAL & MFG. CO., La Crosse, Wis.

1838 300 ACRES NUT AND FRUIT CULTURE 58 YEARS 1896
MORE PROFITABLE than WHEAT or COTTON, with less LABOR and RISK. Send for catalogue illustrating and describing best varieties. ALPHA, the earliest Chestnut, opens Sept. 5th to 10th without frost; BELLANCE, the most productive; PARRY'S GIANT, the largest, six inches around; PARAGON, RIDGELEY and others. STARK, "the perfection of early apples;" BISMARCK, fruits at two years old; PARLIN'S BEAUTY, the handsomest; LINCOLN CORELESS, KOONCE, GOLDEN RUSSET, ANGEL and other pears. JAPAN QUINCE COLUMBIA, a handsome shrub producing a VALUABLE fruit unequalled for jelly. SMALL FRUITS, RARE NOVELTIES, and VALUABLE introductions. JAPAN BERRIES, FRUIT, SHADE and ORNAMENTAL TREES.
PARRYS' POMONA NURSERIES, PARRY, NEW JERSEY.

NO DUST, NO DIRT



In hulling clover with the
New Birdsell Monitor Jr. Clover Huller
WITH FEEDER AND WIND STACKER ATTACHED.

The latest and best labor saving devices yet offered for use on the farm. Something that every thresherman and farmer will appreciate. The Feeder and Wind Stacker are our own invention, no royalties to pay; they can be attached to any Monitor Jr. Huller built since 1881. Write for descriptive catalogue, prices and terms.

BIRDSELL MFG. CO., SOUTH BEND, INDIANA.

HONEST MAN'S OATH.

THRILLING STORY OF "5 DROPS."

Your circulars and bottles of "5 DROPS" came safe to hand, and for the present I send you thanks for the same. You say that I can have the agency for "5 DROPS." I will gladly take the agency to sell it as soon as I can get the money, which may be near a month yet. Money is scarce, but "5 DROPS" will sell fast, for the circulars you first sent me have caused a great talk among the people, and what makes it yet louder is me getting so much better by using the "5 DROPS," as I have told many people that it is the best medicine that I have ever used. I had Rheumatism in every joint and near the heart. I had Catarrh of the head for 30 years. I was so poorly that I lost the use of my legs and arms to such an extent that I could not work without any pain. So bad I have been that I have done but little work for seven long years, and in the midst of my sickness, during these long years, our family physician, a good doctor, told me that Rheumatism and Catarrh never were cured and never could be cured; that they could be relieved for a short time. And in truth I believed it.

I have now been using "5 DROPS" nearly two months, and I can and do truly say that I have not felt so well for more than seven years. This medicine called "5 DROPS" does more than is claimed for it, and I will tell you of my further on this letter. At this time my Catarrh is much better, and I have scarcely any Rheumatism at all, and the heart weakness and pain are gone. My hearing is now good and my eyesight is much better. I have gained more than ten pounds of flesh, and I can do a full day's work at light work.

It is the best medicine I ever saw to give a mother that has a young child, for it has the same effect on the child as it has on the mother. It wards off cramp and cures the colic in the child, and causes sweet and refreshing sleep to both young and old.

Ye that are afflicted as I have been, write me at Siberia, Perry Co., Ind., and I will send you my affidavit and that of many witnesses. We hope the men who make this medicine called "5 DROPS" are honest and never will adulterate it, for it should be kept pure for the sake of suffering humanity. Publish this and welcome. I could tell more good about the "5 DROPS," and will if it is wanted. Write and see.

January 29, 1896. Wm. M. KELLEMS.
25c. samples free by mail for 15 days; send 10c. in stamps to pay postage and packing. Large bottles \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. These living at a distance should always order the \$1.00 bottle. 5000 true testimonials. Sold only by us and agents. Never at drug-stores. WRITE DIRECT TO-DAY. (CUT THIS OUT.)
SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 167 Dearborn St., CHICAGO.

SAVE TWO PROFITS We will sell our entire line direct to Consumers. Special Offer to Agents Free, for Diamond Shears and Knife Sharpeners. DIAMOND CUTLERY CO., 60 B'way, N. Y. 25 cts.

The OLD BLUE-BACK SPELLER

was erstwhile thumbed by how many who read these words, and the old familiar picture!—a ch heart recalls a different scene, but all remember well how, cribbed and confined and while sunshiny afternoons dragged their slow length along, the feeling akin to pity grew into real admiration for the "young sance-box" who would NOT come down, either for words or grass.—It TAKES stones and bull-dogs to drive boys out of STARK TREES!

—not leaves only Tested 70 Years When you plant a Stark tree, you can depend upon it—you have the BEST THERE IS. You can't afford to take chances. No man wants to lay the axe to the root of a tree, or dig it up, just when old enough to bear.

A TREE IS KNOWN by its fruit. Stark trees bear fruit—the finest science has ever produced. For instance—

Gold (\$3,000) Plum—The chiefest among, not 100,000 but 25 MILLION!

A child of science, sprung from crossing our hardy fruitful American plums and the beautiful and exquisite plums of Japan. "It is four times larger than its parents, and tree wreathed and smothered with gloriously handsome golden globes—nothing on earth as beautiful or good." No marvel, then, that such a jewel of purest ray seems so worth small fortune; nor that we were glad to pay full \$3,000.00 for a single tree! A rare ornament, needs but small space—6 feet square. Bears in two years. Controlled by us under patented trade-mark.

Salesmen and club-makers wanted—cash pay weekly. Millions of trees! Write us—Louisiana, Mo., Rockport, Ill.

STARK BRO'S NURSERIES & ORCHARDS

Smiles.

She had read the advertisements
In the papers o'er and o'er,
But had gotten somewhat muddled
As to what each thing was for.

So when she had a bilious turlu,
She took some Pyle's Pearline;
She scrubbed the floor with Sozodont,
But could not get it clean.

And for a torpid liver
She took Sapolio;
And put Castoria in the cake;
She got them muddled so.

—New York Life.

VERY UNIQUE.

Though a young man of foot-ball physique,
His heart was exceedingly wique;
While he much loved the maid,
He was so afraid,
That he hadn't the courage to spique.

—Indianapolis Journal.

TOO MUCH CHEEK.

A WELL-KNOWN author owns a remarkable collection of death-masks of distinguished men. Having heard that a certain foreigner had made by permission a mask of Eugene Field, he wrote and courteously asked whether a replica of it might be secured. A reply was soon received, couched in very brusque language, to the effect that no replica would be furnished, but that the original mask might be purchased of him for a thousand dollars. Whereupon the author sat down and wrote the following letter:

"DEAR SIR:—I am in receipt of your note in which you decline to allow me to make any offer for a replica of your death-mask of Mr. Eugene Field, but offer to sell me the original for a thousand dollars. I fear that my collection must remain without the mask in question, as also of any mask of yourself, for I feel certain that when the time comes for the unmaking of the latter, there will not be clay enough available to cover your cheek.

Very truly yours,

—Bookman.

A POOR JURY.

A man was on trial in Lake county recently on a charge of grand larceny. He was accused of stealing a hog. An old rancher whose interest in the case was due to the fact that he owned a big drove of hogs, listened attentively to the impugning of the jury, and then left the court-room with undisguised disgust. "What's the matter, Sam?" inquired an attorney.

"The jury's goin' to disagree," he declared emphatically.

"What makes you think so?"

"Think? I don't think nothing about it; I know it."

"Well, then, how do you know it?"

"Why, they've got six hogmen that raise hogs and four men that I knows has stole hogs on that jury, an' nobody ever kuowed a hog-raiser an' a hog-thief as would agree on a hog-case."—San Francisco Chronicle.

DEAN HOLE LIKED THIS.

In his book, "A Little Tour in America," Dean Hole, of Rochester, England, quotes with unction many specimens of what he regards as typical American humor. When he was in Cincinnati, the thing that most impressed him was the following bit of doggerel, which he heard recited in that city:

Little Willie from his mirror
Sucked the mercury all off,
Thinking, in his childish error,
It would cure his whooping-cough.
A the funeral Willie's mother
Smartly said to Mrs. Brown:
"Twas a chilly day for William,
When the mercury went down."

NOT IN CHICAGO.

The following extracts are from examination papers recently handed in at a public school in Connecticut:

From what animals do we get milk? From the camel and the milkman.

The hen is covered with feathers; with what is the cat covered? The cat is covered with fleas.

Name an animal that has four legs and a long tail. A mosquito.

Name two kinds of nuts. Peanuts and forget-me-nots.

HELPING HIM ON.

Bashful Regan (after a long pause)—"I'm a-thinkin' I shall go an' list for a sojer, Widow Skelly."

"Faith, thin, it's a poor sojer you'll make!"

"Pbwat do yez mane?"

"Oh, nothin'; only a man who kapes on callin' on a widdy for a couple of years widout pluck enough to shpake his moind, hasn't the makin' of a sojer in him!"—Life.

NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL.

Patsy Grogan was having his wounds dressed. He had lost the end from each of the fingers of his right hand by accidental contact with a buzz-saw. He looked wan and weary, and it was a struggle to keep off the faintness. When the operation was finished, the doctor asked him how he felt.

"Oi'm all roight, Oi giss," said Patsy, in a small voice, while a weak little smile rau over his features. "Oi t'ink it will be a good t'ing, fer Oi'll niver hov t' clane me finger-uails agiu."—Judge.

A JUST SENTENCE.

Justice—"You are charged with trespassing on this gentleman's grounds and with shooting frogs in his private pond."

Prisoner—"Your honor, I was not accountable for what I was doing. I had drunk several bottles of beer; in fact, your honor (ocularly), I was in the same condition as the frogs."

Justice—"How so?"

Prisoner—"I was full of hops."

Justice (sternly)—"Thirty days in jail and one hundred dollars fine, with the costs of court."—Judge.

HAD NO DESIRE FOR FAME.

"Mr. Speaker," exclaimed a member of the New South Wales parliament, "my colleague taunts me with a desire for fame. I scorn the imputation, sir. Fame, sir! What is fame? It is a shaved pig with a greased tail, which slips through the hands of thousands, and then is accidentally caught by some lucky fellow who happens to hold out to it. I let the greasy-tailed quadruped go by me without an effort to clutch it, sir."

THE LAST STRAW.

Nodd—"You say your baby doesn't walk yet? Mine does. Same age, too. Your baby cut his teeth yet?"

Todd—"No."

Nodd—"Mine has, all of them. Your baby talk?"

Todd—"Not yet. Can yours?"

Nodd—"Great Scott, yes!"

Todd (desperately)—"Does he shave himself, or go to a barber's?"—Truth.

YES, HE DID.

Admiral David D. Porter once said that he had asked a friend who had fought all through the war, and made an excellent record, if he had ever killed a man.

"Yes," he answered, in a remorseful tone. "At Bull Run I ran at the first fire. A Confederate chased me for ten miles, and was then so exhausted that he dropped dead."—Youth's Companion.

GREAT MIRACLE.

A negro preacher addressed his flock with great earnestness on the subject of "Miracles," as follows:

"My beloved friends, de greatest of all miracles was 'bout the loaves and fishes. Dey was five thousand loaves and two thousand fishes, and de twelve 'postles had to eat 'em all. De miracle is, dey didn't bust."—Atlanta Constitution.

AN ADMISSION.

Lea—"I wonder if Prof. Kidder meant anything by it?"

Perrins—"By what?"

Lea—"He advertised to lecture on 'Fools,' and when I bought a ticket it was marked, 'Admit One.'"—Puck.

"How did you ever dare to embrace Miss Boston?" asked Jaggs.

"She was speaking of banditti that night, as we drove through the strip of woods by the river, and remarked, 'What a romantic place to be held up,'" said Naggs.

"Yes?" replied Jaggs.

"Well, I held her up," said Naggs.

Johnnie (the office-boy)—"Old Berry, the grocer, is down-stairs, and wants to know why you didn't answer his letter about last month's bill."

Editor—"Tell him he forgot to inclose a stamp."—New York Recorder.

There is some satisfaction in knowing that a woman can't wear the bloomer without putting her foot into it.—Philadelphia Record.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

If you want a sure relief for pains in the back, side, chest, or limbs, use an

Alcock's Porous Plaster

BEAR IN MIND—Not one of the host of counterfeits and imitations is as good as the genuine.

SIXTY-SIX NOVELS FREE.

STORIES, ROMANCES, Etc.

HOURS AT HOME is one of the Largest and Most Interesting Family and Story Papers printed in any land or language. It now has a circulation of 200,000 copies each issue, but in order to increase it we make the following very liberal offer:

For only Twenty Cents we will send HOURS AT HOME until January, 1897, and *Sixty-Six Novels, Romances, Tales and Novelettes*, all by famous authors, *Free!* A partial list is as follows:

THE TRUE LOVE OF HER LIFE,

BY AMANDA M. DOUGLASS.

UNDER THE WILL,

BY MARY CECIL HAY.

WANTED—A WIFE,

BY JOHN STRANGE WINTER.

ONCE LOVED NEVER FORGOTTEN,

BY WALTER BESANT.

HOW HE WON HER,

BY RETT WINWOOD.

MYSTERY OF STERLING HOUSE

BY MARY A. DENISON.

AN ENGAGED MAN,

BY EIRENE KNOWLTON.

MY HUSBAND AND I,

BY COUNT LYOF TOLSTOI.

THE BEAUTIFUL WIDOW,

BY MARTHA H. WILLARD.

A HOUSEHOLD SAINT,

BY MRS. W. H. PALMER.

PAPA'S FRIEND,

BY FRANK LEE BENEDICT.

DARLING'S VICTORY,

BY L. T. MEADE.

LEAP YEAR MISHAPS,

BY CLARA AUGUSTA.

RESOLUTE SWEETHEART,

BY MATTIE D. BRITTS.

MY SISTER'S HUSBAND,

BY ELLA RODMAN CHURCH.

A CRITICAL MOMENT,

BY ARTHUR L. MESERVE.

A HARD EARNED KISS,

BY MARY B. SLEIGHT.

LOVE ON WHEELS,

BY A POPULAR AUTHOR.

And many others. This splendid collection is handsomely printed and bound, finely illustrated and can be secured absolutely *Free* if you send but Twenty Cents to pay for HOURS AT HOME from now till January, 1897. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Send Postage Stamps, Money Order or Silver, well secured in a strong envelope. Address **HOURS AT HOME, 22 Reade St., New York, P. O. Box 1198.**

GRAPE VINES.

Largest Stock in the World. Small Fruits. Introducer of unrivalled new Red Jacket Gooseberry & Fay Currant. Catalogue free. Geo. S. Josselyn, Fredonia, N. Y.



NEW CHRYSANTHEMUM SEED.

These charming new Chrysanthemums from Japan bloom the first year from seed. They embrace all styles, varieties and colors, including the exquisite new Ostich Flame type, Rosettes, Globes, Embellished, Miniature and Mammoth. Sow the seed this spring, the plants will bloom profusely this fall. 25 cts. per pkt., or **For only 30c. we will mail all the following:**
1 pkt. NEW JAPANESE CHRYSANTHEMUM SEED.
4 pkt. SCARLET PANSEES, fine red colors.
1 pkt. MARGARET CARNATION, all colors, blooms in 3 mos.
1 pkt. VERBENA GIANT WHITE SCENTED, new fragrant.
1 pkt. FILIFERA or WEEPING PALM, a grand plant.
1 pkt. DWARF GIANT FLOWERED CANNA, mixed, ex. fine.
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Waffled with SORE EYES USE **Dr. ISAAC THOMPSON'S EYE WATER**

EVERYTHING WAS AS REPRESENTED.

WE have in another column taken occasion to refer to a party of fifteen, who recently visited the Tallahassee country for the purpose of examining the lands owned and controlled by the Clark Syndicate Companies.

This party was made up almost entirely of intending settlers, several of them practical farmers, and all looking for new homes in a region more attractive than the colder sections of the Northwest. Nearly everyone of this party bought a farm through the Clark Syndicate Companies, and all expressed themselves as highly gratified with what had been shown them; and the following letter, written by one of the party, is published as expressing the opinion of the whole:

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Feb. 8, 1896.
CLARK SYNDICATE CO.

Dear Sirs:—For fear I may not have an opportunity of seeing you on my return to Chicago, I feel I am in duty bound to express to you appreciation of the kindness shown us, both at Lanark and at Tallahassee.

All that could be done to make our stay in Florida pleasant and enjoyable has been done, and I shall return with a feeling of gratitude that we owe to you, and that I wish to express in this manner. You have not overestimated the country, to my mind. The "sun never shone on a fairer land;" Tallahassee is the "garden spot of the South." All those that came with me would indorse this, and intend to return. Most of us have bought more than we intended.

I have purchased a nice farm one quarter of a mile from Tallahassee, nearly twice as much in acreage as I expected. That speaks for itself. I intend to bring my family here soon. Why live amidst the frost and snow when a land of flowers is within your reach?

Messrs. Swearingen and Taylor have been very devoted to us, doing all that could be done for our comfort, and through them alone have our purchases been made possible.

Yours etc.,
(Signed) T. A. WILLIAMS,
La Salle, Ill.

We have published a great many letters with reference to the operations of the Clark Syndicate Companies in Western Florida, and have unhesitatingly commended the statements made under the auspices of these companies to our many readers, believing that they were made in perfect good faith, and that the character of the people composing the management of the various corporations grouped in this syndicate was a sufficient guarantee that no misrepresentations would be made.

The unsolicited letter written by Mr. Williams, after a personal visit to the Tallahassee country for the purpose of examining and verifying for himself the statements which he and his friends had read in the columns of this paper, is exceedingly gratifying to us, because it is substantial and positive corroboration of what has appeared in our columns, and beyond this may be taken as substantial evidence that the views we have heretofore presented with regard to the great immigration movement now going on toward the South are founded in truth and fact.

We commend this expression to our many readers, and once more call their attention to the fact that the South is now undergoing the same process of development through which the West has passed during the first half century, and we unhesitatingly predict, in view of the great natural resources of the Southern country, its fertility of soil, its attractiveness of climate, its facilities of transportation, and the exceeding courtesy and kindness now shown by the Southern people to Northern immigrants, that the next ten or fifteen years will witness a growth and development in the South without a parallel in the history of this country.

Without disparaging any other section of the Southern states we think it can be said broadly and truthfully that the Tallahassee country is altogether the most attractive region of the New South. It possesses the same advantages of climate that obtain in Southern California and in Italy. It is not only a land of perpetual sunshine, but a land of flowers and of beauty; a country capable of producing every kind of citric fruit and early vegetation, and its future, so far as successful farming in all its branches is concerned,

may be considered as assured beyond all question or doubt.

Arrangements have already been made for "Home-seekers' Rates" from all the great cities of the Northwest, and from Boston, New York and Philadelphia, both by land and water, so that the intending settler or purchaser of lands may have every opportunity, at comparatively small expense, to visit the country, see and examine things for himself, precisely as did Mr. Williams and his associates, and finding everything exactly as represented, may become purchasers and settlers in a comparatively short time.

We consider that one of the greatest advantages in connection with land development is to have all the facts that may be set forth to intending immigrants verified by statements from absolutely reliable sources, so that the immigrant or intending purchaser may feel that he is perfectly safe in giving credence to what is written or published with regard to the particular section he is intending to visit.

Our position with reference to the Tallahassee country has been from the outset based upon our knowledge of the personal character and business repute of the gentlemen composing the management of the corporations known as the Clark Syndicate Companies. We believe any statements coming from this source may be relied upon, and it is as gratifying to us, as it must be to the management of the Clark Syndicate Companies, to read letters such as the one above quoted from Mr. Williams.

THE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE SOUTH.

Mr. C. P. Huntington, the head of the great Southern Pacific Railroad System, recently took occasion to state his views with reference to the future of the South. Among other things he stated: "The section of the country south of what is known as the Mason and Dixon's Line and east of the Mississippi River possesses opportunities for colonization not enjoyed by any other section of this country. Climatic conditions, the fertility of the soil, and the fact that tilling and planting of all kinds of crops is there less expensive than in the Northwestern and far-off Western territory will, I think, induce an increased immigration to the South. Land is comparatively cheap there, and to a large class of immigrants the rigors of the blizzard weather in the higher latitudes are unendurable."

These views, coming as they do from one of the best known and most progressive business men in this country, are worthy of serious consideration. They indicate with unerring certainty the great possibilities of the New South, and the pronounced movement of farmers from the Northwest to the milder climate and cheap soil of the South presents the strongest evidence of the accuracy of Mr. Huntington's judgment.

Within the past a party of fifteen visited the Tallahassee region, under the auspices of the Clark Syndicate Companies, and upward of two thousand acres were purchased in the Tallahassee region by farmers who propose to settle in that country. One of this party, Mr. T. A. Williams, a well-known citizen of LaSalle, Illinois, writes a letter, which is published in another column, and this communication is very strongly corroborative (coming from a proposed settler) of the views expressed by Mr. Huntington, as quoted above. We refer our readers to the letter of Mr. Williams.

Our next excursion to Tallahassee, Florida, will be on the tenth of March. We shall make the very low round-trip rate from Chicago of \$32.80. The round-trip fare from Cincinnati will be \$25.90. If you do not live within easy distance of either of these two places, go to your nearest ticket agent and see if you can't get a cheap rate to either Chicago or Cincinnati, and join us at one of these two cities.

There will be no better time to visit Florida than early March. We expect to have a very pleasant party, and would like to have all our readers send in their names and a remittance in order to secure a ticket.

Address all inquiries and send all orders and remittances to

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feature of the "Antenna King" is the peculiarly crimped leaves, which not only add to its appearance, but enable it to be distinguished anywhere. 14. Large Sugar Parsnip.—Roots long, white, smooth, tender, sugary, and of excellent flavor; parsnips are improved by remaining in the ground exposed to frost during winter. 15. New Ever-Bearing Cucumber.—Special attention is called to this new and unique variety of small size, very early, enormously productive, and very valuable as a green pickler; vines continue to flower and produce fruit until killed by frost, whether the ripe cucumbers are picked off or not—in which respect it differs from all other sorts in cultivation; cucumbers in every stage of growth will be found on the same vine.

YOURS FREE.—Send a club of 4 at 50c each and we will send you four seeds free. AGENTS WANTED.—At every postoffice to take subscriptions for the Agricultural Epitomist. No other paper equals ours for ease of taking subscriptions. Every person who has a small garden or a larger tract of ground will find its monthly instructions of great value, besides the seed premium will strike them just right. Large clubs are easily formed. We offer \$300 in cash for the largest clubs sent us up to April 1st, 1896. Send for particulars of this prize contest.

PRICE TO CLUB RAISERS.—1 to 4 subscriptions at 50c each, 5 to 9 at 40c each, 10 or more at 35c each. Every subscriber will receive the Free Seeds.

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Recent Publications.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

VEGETABLES FOR THE HOME GARDEN. A practical manual for beginners, presenting in a clear, concise form the essential facts of gardening. Price 10 cents. Published by W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

ECHOES OF BATTLE. By Bushrod Washington James. (Henry T. Coates & Co., Philadelphia.) One half of this book is in verse, the other half, in prose, and it is all descriptive of battle-field and camp scenes in the American revolution and the civil war. Mr. James lacks much of being a poet, but his descriptions are interesting, and the work is handsomely illustrated with photographs from life and from the best paintings of battle scenes. The verses are full of martial spirit and patriotic sentiment.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

Vaughan's Seed Store, 84 and 86 Randolph street, Chicago, Ill. Vaughan's Gardening Illustrated for 1896.

M. Crawford, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Catalogue of strawberry-plants and gladiolus bulbs.

Arthur J. Collins, Moorestown, N. J. Illustrated catalogue of new and all the leading standard varieties of fruits.

Thompson's Sons, Rio Vista, Va. Wholesale price-list of new fruits.

F. Barteldes & Co., Lawrence, Kan. Descriptive catalogue of farm, garden and flower seed and nursery stock.

Ki-ote Seed Co., Sioux Falls, Dak. Wholesale catalogue of seeds. Specialty—the Stanley potato.

W. W. Rawson & Co., 34 South Market street, Boston, Mass. Catalogues of home-grown and imported seeds. Silver Medal dahlias a specialty.

L. L. Olds, Clinton, Wis. Catalogue of seed-potatoes, corn, oats, barley, and everything for the garden.

H. W. Buckbee, Rockford, Ill. Seed and plant guide. Special offer—county fair collection.

The Storrs & Harrison Co., Painesville, Ohio. Complete list of seeds, plants and trees.

Joseph Harris Co., Moreton Farm, N. Y. Rural annual and catalogue of garden and field seeds direct from the farm.

E. W. Reid's Nurseries, Bridgeport, Ohio. Catalogue of everything for the fruit grower.

Johnson & Stokes, Philadelphia, Pa. Garden and farm annual—illustrated by beautiful reproductions of photographs. Tested seeds.

Pike & Ellsworth, Jessamine, Fla. Rare Florida flowers and fruits.

R. H. Shumway, Rockford, Ill. Illustrated garden guide.

Deering Harvester Co., Chicago, Ill. Annual catalogue of wheat, hay and corn harvesting machinery—"Roller and ball bearings on the farm."

Green's Nursery Co., Rochester, N. Y. Green's Fruit Instructor—a manual for growers, and descriptive catalogue of fruit trees, plants, vines and ornamentals.

C. N. Bowers, Dakota, Ill. Poultry annual and book of valuable recipes. Price 10 cents.

Peter Henderson & Co., 35 and 37 Cortlandt street, New York. Manual of everything for the garden—a complete catalogue of seeds, plants, bulbs, tools, fertilizers, insecticides, etc. Price 20 cents, which may be deducted from first order amounting to \$1 or over.

James J. H. Gregory & Sons, Marblehead, Mass. Catalogue of home-grown seeds.

Radishes fit for the table in twenty days from sowing the seed! It hardly seems possible, but that is what Vaughan, the Chicago Seedman, claims for his "20 DAY RADISH." This toothsome vegetable has been greatly neglected in home gardens, but there is no reason why every family having a bit of land need not grow it to perfection. Vaughan makes a specialty of the Radish, and can furnish any variety worth growing.

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NUMBER OF INDIANS IN COLUMBUS' TIME.

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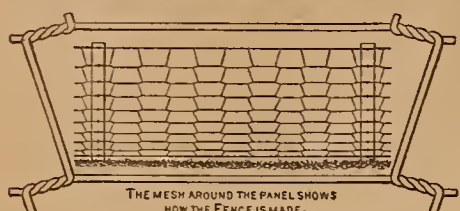
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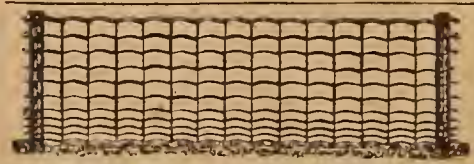
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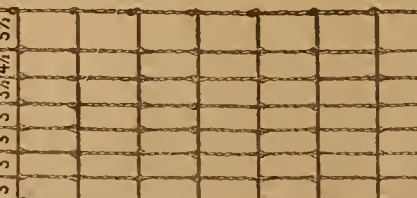
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MARCH 15, 1896.

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WITH THE VANGUARD

CONGRESS has not only passed the bill compelling the secretary of agriculture to resume free-seed distribution, but has actually increased the usual appropriation of money for that purpose. As stated in the March 1st number of this paper, the question of free-seed distribution was not considered in Congress on its merits at all. In commendable efforts to abolish an antiquated and useless business, blunders were made that were effectively turned against the whole movement.

Since national seed distribution is to be continued, for awhile at least, it is now in order to consider whether it cannot be so conducted as to give better results and be made to return something to the people for the public money expended. The following plan has been suggested by a contributor, and its merits are apparent:

1. Let the money which is appropriated for this purpose be divided among the several experiment stations, according to the representations of their states in Congress.
2. Let the stations purchase such seeds and plants as their knowledge of the agriculture and horticulture of their respective states would indicate as promising the greatest benefit to the people of those states.
3. Let the stations distribute the greater part of these seeds under the franks of the state's members of Congress, and to such lists of names as these members may furnish, leaving to each station a small percentage to be distributed for purposes of experiment purely.

The experiment station for each state ought to be better qualified to direct this

distribution for its own state than any one man for the whole nation. These stations are under the control of men who are especially conversant with the agriculture and horticulture of their respective states, and they have the best facilities for testing new varieties and determining their probable value before sending them out. Under any form of gratuitous distribution, many seeds will be wasted, and many will fall into the hands of persons too careless to report; but the number of reports can be largely increased by following the seeds with special blanks on which to report. The adoption of this plan would not limit the prerogative of the congressman in distributing seeds among his constituents.

IN an address on electric railway extension before the Ohio agricultural convention, Hon. Martin Dodge presented the following comparison on the cost of transportation:

"It is well known that the cost of transportation affects the profits of industry, and even the wages of labor, and this is especially true of the agricultural industry and labor bestowed on lands. Those lands that are remote from the means of transportation or inaccessible are of little value, and may be even worthless, while other lands of no better quality, but more favorably situated as to means of transportation, are higher-priced in proportion to transportation facilities. The cheapest means we have or know of is transportation by steamships upon deep water, which is so low that a ton can be carried a thousand miles upon the Great Lakes for \$1.25, or less. The next in cheapness is transportation on the steam-cars, which, upon the average in the state of Ohio, is about one half of a cent a ton per mile, and less upon the long haul. So that, upon the average, a ton can be carried two hundred and fifty miles for \$1.25. Next in cheapness is transportation by electric-cars upon the highways.

"This is a new and only partially tried means of transportation. I will not say that it is an untried means, for it has been sufficiently tried to have passed the experimental stage, and I have estimated from various points of view, and from data which I will not take time now to give, that the rate upon such cars can be, and is where in use, not to exceed five cents a ton per mile. That, you will observe, is ten times as great as the prevailing rate upon the steam-cars. I will say to you that I think my estimate is high, for I have made liberal allowances, but I will assume that to be the rate which is attained where these cars have been used and which may be attained wherever they will be used. That, then, would give us a means of transporting a ton twenty-five miles at the same cost (\$1.25) that it now costs to transport upon the steam-cars two hundred and fifty miles, or steamships one thousand miles.

"The next and last that I shall mention, and the most expensive means that we have in use, is that of animal-power; and the prevailing rate of transportation by animal-power is twenty-five cents a ton per mile. In other words, we are only able to move by horse-power for the same cost

(\$1.25) a distance of five miles, as against a distance of twenty-five miles which we reach with the electric-cars, or two hundred and fifty miles with the steam-cars, or one thousand miles with the steamships.

"In the Ohio report of 1893, the total amount of tonnage moved by horse-power in the United States for the year 1892 was estimated at 500,000,000 tons; the average distance at eight miles. The cost of moving this tonnage at twenty-five cents a ton per mile would be \$1,000,000,000, which was stated to be the cost of operating the wagon-roads for one year. How this great burden could be partially lifted from the people was the main question considered and reported upon by the commission, and we indicated that by substituting inanimate power for animal-power for transportation upon the highways it would be possible to eliminate four fifths of this expense from the cost of transportation. In other words, instead of \$1,000,000,000 being required, \$200,000,000 would be sufficient, leaving a net gain to the people of eighty per cent of the present cost, or \$800,000,000 annually."

By a vote nearly unanimous, each branch of Congress adopted resolutions on the Cuban question. As the Senate resolutions differed from the House resolutions, both sets were referred to a conference committee. The committee agreed upon the House resolutions, which read as follows:

"Resolved, By the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), that in the opinion of Congress a state of war exists in Cuba, the parties to which are entitled to belligerent rights, and the United States should observe a strict neutrality between the belligerents.

"Resolved, That Congress deplores the destruction of life and property caused by the war now raging in that island, and believing that the only permanent solution of the contest equally in the interest of Spain, the people of Cuba, and other nations, would be in the establishment of a government by the choice of the people of Cuba, it is the sense of Congress that the government of the United States should use its good offices and friendly influence to that end.

"Resolved, That the United States has not intervened in the struggles between any European governments and their colonies in this continent, but from the very close relation between the people of the United States and those of Cuba, in consequence of its proximity and the extent of the commerce between the two peoples, the present war is entailing such losses upon the people of the United States that Congress is of opinion that the government of the United States should be prepared to protect legitimate interests of Americans by intervention if necessary."

As concurrent resolutions of Congress do not have to be passed upon by the executive, President Cleveland is still free to follow his own inclinations in the matter of officially granting belligerent rights to the Cuban patriots. No immediate action is expected, since the administration is understood to be indifferent or unfriendly to the Cuban cause. The Cuban resolutions

adopted by Congress, therefore, simply amount to an expression of opinion, of which the moral effect, however, must not be underestimated.

It is a pleasure to record another great victory for pure food. Recently the Supreme Court of Ohio passed upon important test cases, and sustained the Ohio pure-food law in every part. On one of the most important points litigated, the highest court of the state holds that it is not necessary for the state to prove guilty knowledge on the part of the merchant; that is, that he knew he was selling adulterated goods. The decision is a heavy blow on the adulterators of foods and their understrappers.

Defeated in efforts to repeal it, defeated in attempts to amend it to death, defeated in election schemes to get a commissioner who would not enforce it, defeated in efforts to overthrow it in the higher courts, the manufacturers of and dealers in adulterated foods persist in fighting the Ohio pure-food law with an activity that would be highly commendable in an honest cause. Why? Because there are immense profits in the manufacture and fraudulent sale of adulterated food products.

The Ohio pure-food law is a just, but not a severe, law. Its object is to protect consumers, to prevent fraud in the sale of adulterated as pure foods. It contains no provision prohibiting the sale of adulterated foods and drugs as such. It simply requires them to be branded and sold for what they are. If the dealer and purchaser desire to handle and consume adulterated foods and drugs, even the vilest on the market, they are free to do so. The only condition imposed on the dealer is that he shall not defraud the consumer by palming off an adulterated article as pure.

It is evident that a vast majority of the people of Ohio favor the law and its enforcement. The local dealer who, at the instance of the manufacturer of adulterated foods and drugs, fights the law or seeks to prevent, directly or indirectly, its enforcement, places himself in a very bad light before his patrons and neighbors. The man who upholds a fraud cannot long retain the confidence of his fellow-citizens, particularly when he stands in the relation of merchant to customers. It is unwise for him from a business point of view alone.

In his latest valuations of fertilizers, Secretary Miller, of the Ohio state board of agriculture, has cut down ammonia from 17 to 11½ cents a pound, available phosphoric acid from 6½ to 5 cents, and potash, as muriate, from 6½ to 5½ cents. Used as a guide in the purchase of chemical fertilizers, these new valuations mean the saving of many thousands of dollars annually to the farmers of Ohio. If purchasers cannot now readily find on the market commercial fertilizers which are priced on the basis of these valuations, they can buy the components separately, do the mixing at home, as explained fully in an article on the following page, and make even a greater saving.

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FARM AND FIRESIDE,
Springfield, Ohio.

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We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

COMMENTS ON CURRENT LITERATURE.

Home Mixing
of Fertilizers.

Bulletin No. 34 of the Rhode Island experiment station pricks the bubble with which fertilizer manufacturers and their agents often try to scare the farmer out of buying the simple unmixed chemicals rather than the mixed manufactured goods. "The first statement that the fertilizer agent will advance for the discouragement of home mixing," says the bulletin, "will be to the effect that so thorough a mixture cannot be obtained as is possible by the machines employed in the fertilizer-factories. The facts of the case are about as follows: In the manufacture of superphosphates, which should and do enter into the composition of most fertilizers, a small quantity of free sulphuric acid is liable to be present unless proper care is exercised. Such free sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) is poisonous to plants, and some manufacturers claim that they always mix a small amount of tankage, bone or undissolved phosphate with the fertilizer in order that it may, upon standing, fully neutralize the sulphuric acid. Admitting that they do, the farmer can do this also; or if his soil contains calcium carbonate (lime), or has been treated generously with wood ashes, air-slaked lime or marl, no danger will arise from such small quantities of sulphuric acid as are actually met with, for the lime will neutralize it at



FIG. 1.

once. Again, with the exception of the organic nitrogen and the phosphoric acid in the reverted and insoluble forms, the active ingredients are all easily soluble in water, and whether mixed a little more or less intimately, the first rains will inevitably dissolve them, and cause an equally satisfactory mixture with the soil. In fact, it will be seen that the argument against home mixing can have little, if any, practical effect."

Mixing

Unnecessary. But why mix the ingredients at all? If I want to put on nitrate of soda, or muriate of potash, or lime, or hen manure, I think the quickest, easiest and most convenient way is to apply them unmixed, and just where wanted. We cannot increase their effectiveness by mixing. My stock of chemicals is usually quite limited in number of kinds. I have nitrate of soda, muriate of potash and dissolved phosphate rock, which three are used generally and generously; and, besides, in smaller amounts or for trial only, such things as dried blood, kainite, sulphates of potash and ammonia, bone-meal, etc. For ordinary farmers' uses, I think that muriate of potash and acid phosphate (dissolved rock), in combination with clover to furnish the nitrogen, are about all the chemical manures needed.

T. GREINER.

SWEET-POTATO HOUSES.

The accompanying illustrations were made from photographs furnished by Mr. John C. Bridgwater, a sweet-potato specialist of Tennessee. He describes them as follows:

Fig. 1 is situated on top of a hill. The walls of the cellar are of earth below and logs above. An aisle, four feet wide, runs the length of the cellar, with bins on each

in the cellar as soon as dug. The removable floor is left up for several weeks, after which it is put down and the whole floor covered with sawdust.

Fig. 4 is an inside view of Fig. 3, showing about one half the space over the cellar. The windlass, rope, pulley and platform for handling the barrels are plainly shown.

Fig. 5 shows a cellar dug in a hillside. The cellar walls are of stone, cemented on the inside. The cellar bottom, also, is cemented. The cellar is divided into bins of different sizes. The floor over the cellar is of loose planks, which are laid down several weeks after the potatoes are stored, and then covered with straw. A few planks are left up for ventilation, except when very cold.

THE HOME MIXING OF FERTILIZERS.

In a previous issue of FARM AND FIRESIDE I gave two or three formulas by which

FORMULA No. 1. 7-30 TANKAGE.

MATERIAL.	Quantity.	Cost.	ESSENTIAL CONSTITUENTS.				
			Ammonia.	Phosphoric Acid.			Potash.
	Pounds.		Pounds.	Total.	Available.	Insoluble.	Pounds.
Tankage.....	950	\$ 9.50	66	127	76	51	...
Acid phosphate.....	950	6.65	...	133	133	...	...
Muriate of potash.....	100	2.50	...	.....	.....	.....	50
Total.....	2,000	18.65	66	260	209	51	50

FORMULA No. 2. 9-20 TANKAGE.

	Quantity.	Cost.	Ammonia.	Total.	Available.	Insoluble.	Potash.
Tankage.....	750	7.50	67	67	42	35	...
Acid phosphate.....	1,150	8.05	...	161	161	...	...
Muriate of potash.....	100	2.50	...	.....	.....	.....	50
Total.....	2,000	18.05	67	228	203	35	50
Percentage composition.....			3 3/4	11 1/2	10 1/4	35	2 1/2

FORMULA No. 3.

	Quantity.	Cost.	Ammonia.	Total.	Available.	Insoluble.	Potash.
Nitrate of soda.....	100	2.75	20	.....	.....	.....	...
Tankage, 7-30.....	600	6.00	42	81	48	33	...
Acid phosphate.....	1,280	8.40	...	168	168	...	...
Muriate of potash.....	100	2.50	...	.....	.....	.....	50
Total.....	2,000	19.65	62	249	216	33	50
Percentage composition.....			3	12 1/2	10 1/4	33	2 1/2

FORMULA No. 4. BONE-BLACK FERTILIZER.

	Quantity.	Cost.	Ammonia.	Total.	Available.	Insoluble.	Potash.
Dried blood.....	400	6.00	60	.....	.....	.....	...
Dissolved bone-black.....	1,500	13.50	...	240	240	20	...
Muriate of potash.....	100	2.50	...	.....	.....	.....	50
Total.....	2,000	\$22.00	60	240	240	20	50
Percentage composition.....			3	12	12	1	2 1/2

side. The flooring over the aisle is permanent, with a hatchway at the center of the house. The remaining flooring is left up four or five weeks after the potatoes are stored, then put down and covered with sawdust. The hatchway is left open for ventilation except in very cold weather.

Fig. 2 presents an inside view of Fig. 1. The floor is up, and the pulley, ropes and saddle for handling barrels are in position. The sketch shows a door at one end of the house; there is a corresponding door at the other end.

Back of Fig. 3 is a ravine, which provides good under-drainage. The walls are part earth and part brick, the brick walls resting on the earth walls. The bins in this cellar hold between two and three hundred bushels each. There are two hatchways over the aisle. The ventilation and temperature are regulated by opening and closing the two hatchways and the door at each end of the building. The temperature is kept uniformly at about sixty degrees Fahrenheit. Some sections of the floor over the cellar are permanent; others removable. The potatoes are stored

fertilizers of a given composition might be mixed at home, these being intended to illustrate the probable composition of some of the low-grade fertilizers on the Ohio market. As many of the readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE are now writing to me for further information on this point, I must ask for a little space in which to reply.

As stated before, the basis of practically all the fertilizers sold in Ohio is slaughter-house refuse and Carolina rock. At the great western slaughter-houses great quantities of blood and tankage accumulate, this tankage being what is left in the rendering-tanks when the fat is extracted from scraps of bone and meat. It is dried and ground, and has become a standard article of commerce. It is of various grades, according to the relative proportion of ammonia and bone phosphate contained. Thus, a 9-20 tankage would contain about 9 per cent ammonia and 20 per cent bone phosphate; and as bone phosphate is about 46 per cent phosphoric acid, such a tankage would contain about equal percentages of ammonia and phosphoric acid. The ruling wholesale price of this grade of tankage through 1895 was about \$11 to \$13 per ton in Kansas City, and \$2 to \$3 higher in Chicago. The use of tankage of this grade is practically limited to its employ-

ment in mixed fertilizers as a source of ammonia, dried blood being used for the same purpose.

The phosphoric acid in tankage is in the same condition as that in raw bone, and it will therefore not act as promptly as that

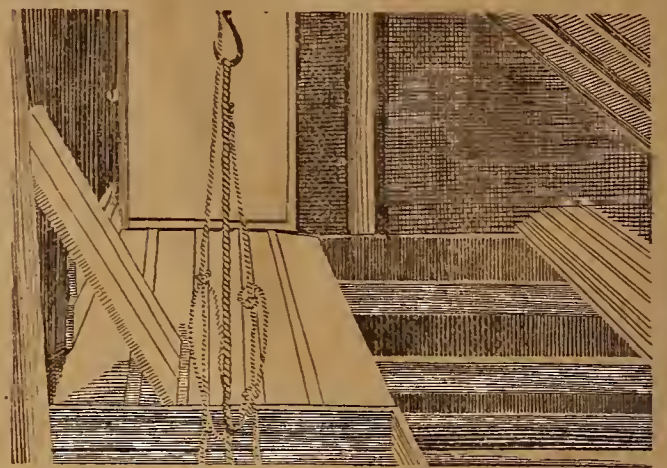


FIG. 2.

in dissolved bone-black or acidulated Carolina rock, and for this reason the mixture of acid phosphate or dissolved bone-black with tankage will improve the quality of the fertilizer, as it may be no disadvantage to have a part of the phosphoric acid in the more slowly available form. The tankage referred to in my previous article is made by a Cleveland firm, and its latest analysis shows almost 8 per cent ammonia and about 13 1/2 per cent total phosphoric acid, 8 per cent of which is in the "available" form. Carolina rock contains about 14 per cent available phosphoric acid, and muriate of potash about 50 per cent actual potash.

Per ton, \$19 to \$20 would be a liberal estimate of the cost of either of these grades of tankage at the average Ohio station in car-load lots, \$14 to \$15 a similar one for acid phosphate, and 2 1/2 cents per pound for muriate of potash in small lots, freight included. At these prices, a car-load each of tankage and acid phosphate, and a few hundred pounds of muriate of potash, might be mixed into fertilizer having the average composition per ton given in Formula No. 1.

It would, of course, cost something to handle and mix these materials. For the mixing alone, 50 cents per ton would be an ample allowance, and the extra handling would depend upon conveniences for storing, distance from railroad, etc.; but the entire cost of the fertilizer, including handling and mixing, ought not to exceed \$20 per ton. At the prices which Ohio farmers have hitherto been paying for commercial fertilizers, a fertilizer of this composition would be sold at about \$30 per ton—in some localities more, in others less, for the prices of mixed fertilizers, like those of some other things, are based upon what the people can be persuaded to pay.

This fertilizer would show about 3 3/4 per cent ammonia, 13 per cent total or 10 1/4 per cent available phosphoric acid, and 2 1/2 per cent potash; but it will be seen that the percentages can be varied at will to suit the ideas or the crops of the user. If 9-20 tankage were used, the composition would be about as in Formula No. 2.

For use on spring crops, I should prefer to apply part of the ammonia in the form of nitrate of soda, because in that form it will act more promptly than in the slaughter-house material, although this will add slightly to the apparent cost of the fertilizer. Formula No. 3 is suggested for this purpose.

For those who are prejudiced against Carolina rock, a pure-bone fertilizer may be made as per Formula No. 4. In this formula the materials are estimated at single-ton prices. By purchasing in car-load lots the prices could be reduced at least \$1 per ton. For a ready-mixed fertilizer of equivalent composition, probably at least \$35 per ton would be demanded by dealers.

I would repeat again that these formulas are given merely to illustrate the principle upon which such formulas are made. The farmer should learn to use them and to modify them to suit his needs. The farmers of Ohio are spending annually about a million and a quarter of dollars for commercial fertilizers. Fully one fourth that amount might be saved by purchasing the materials for cash at wholesale, and mixing at home.

CHAS. E. THORNE.
Ohio Experiment Station.

Our Farm.

FORMATION AND CARE OF LAWNS.

In the making of a good lawn a fertile soil is the first consideration, and is as essential as for the garden. If the soil is composed largely of clay, which is the best kind for a permanent lawn, draining, deep working, manuring and thorough pulverization are absolutely necessary to insure the best results. If this is followed by a liberal top-dressing of decayed vegetable matter, such as leaf-mold from the woods, or thoroughly rotted manure that is free from foul weed-seeds, which is thoroughly intermixed with the smooth-surfaced soil, it will prevent the hardening of the surface after the plants begin to grow. The lack of this precaution on heavy clay soils accounts for more failures than any other single cause. Where such materials are not at hand, the next best plan is to sow broadcast not less than 500 pounds of fine, pure bone-meal to the acre, or its equivalent in 800 pounds of bone-dust made of steamed bones. For small areas, 12x25 feet (300 square feet), six to eight pounds are sufficient.

An excellent lawn-grass mixture for use north of the cotton-growing states is the following, which, for all practical purposes, is equal to most high-priced lawn-grass mixtures. Experience has shown that the best general mixture of seed for the formation of a permanent and beautiful lawn is composed of two bushels, twenty-eight pounds, of Kentucky blue-grass (*Poa pratensis*), one bushel, fourteen pounds, of redtop (*Agrostis vulgaris*) and two pounds of Phleum pratense, making in all forty-four pounds.

In the cotton-growing states, Bermuda (*Cynodon dactylon*) should almost invariably be used as a lawn-grass, as no other will stand the burning rays of the summer's sun so well, or will make a softer or more velvety lawn when kept closely cut. For pasture and hay-making purposes, six pounds of seed are sown to the acre, but for the lawn at least ten pounds should be used. The supply of seed is not abundant, and the price per pound is so high that the most general method of propagating the Bermuda-grass is that of passing the old sod through a cutting-box, and planting the pieces of roots about a foot apart. When planted in this way, the creeping root-stalks soon form a dense and permanent sod.

For the shifting, sandy soils, so common on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, the coast couch-grass (*Zoysia pungens*) or Japanese lawn-grass is confidently recommended. Owing to its creeping habit, a perfect network of strong fibers is soon formed, which not only binds and holds the drifting sands, but also forms a very desirable, firm, close and durable sod, which makes it highly prized for tennis-courts. Some seed has been obtained from the United States consul-general at Seoul, Corea, for experimental purposes by the United States Department of Agriculture. The most desirable method of propagation, however, is by the planting of root cuttings, as recommended for the Bermuda-grass.

A common mistake in lawn-making is that of sowing oats or barley with the grass-seed, a practice that invariably results



FIG. 3.

in greater damage than benefit. The young grass-plants on rich or well-fertilized land require no protection from the sun's rays. Cross-sow the seed so as to insure its even distribution, and if the soil is in prime condition, brush in the seed; but if inclined to be dry, the roller must also be used. Grass-seed often fails to grow because the soil is left so loose that after the seed germinates it perishes before becoming firmly rooted. A light top-dressing of woods

earth or leaf-mold scattered over the surface, so as to prevent the evaporation of moisture, will often secure a good catch where a failure would have otherwise resulted.

Where the conditions are favorable for the growth of the grass, it should be ready for the lawn-mower in northern localities by the middle of June or the first of July. After two or three weekly cuttings, the lawn will have the appearance of an old, well-cared-for sod. The use of a heavy hand-roller should not be overlooked, for it is an almost indispensable implement in keeping the surface firm and smooth, especially as soon as the frost is out of the ground in the spring, or after very heavy rains during the growing season, as it tends to break down and check the growth of the grass where it is too succulent.

The subsequent care of the lawn will consist in keeping any depressions filled with light soil; and should the grass appear thin in spots or not have a thrifty appearance, it is an excellent plan to apply a heavy top-dressing of well-rotted manure as soon as the ground is frozen. This will not only serve as a winter protection to the lawn, but the liquid manure will be absorbed by the rootlets, and when the rough substances are raked from the surface in the spring, a vigorous growth will be the result. Where the unsightly application of stable manure is objectionable, a heavy top-dressing of finely ground bone-meal or bone-dust will answer an excellent purpose, although it is not, as a rule, as satisfactory as the preceding method. In the management of lawns, the fact should be borne in mind that on account of the

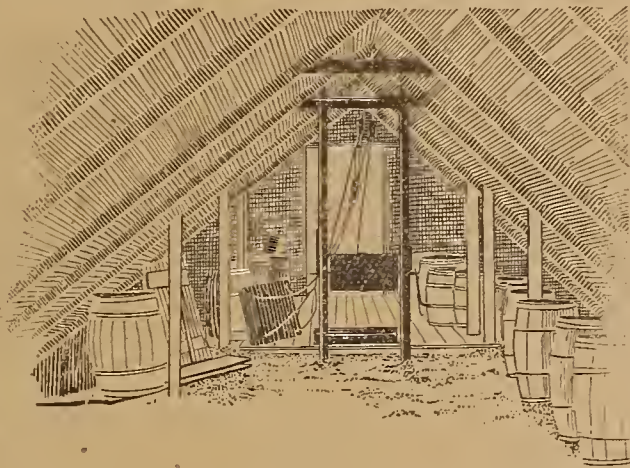


FIG. 4.

frequent cutting of the grass, no natural seeding is effected, so that the subsequent use of seed is imperative where, for any reason, bare and unsightly spots have appeared.

W. M. K.

Near Washington, D. C.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

A CLOVER ROTATION.—The acreage of clover has increased at a rapid rate in the last twenty years, and yet comparatively few farms produce as much clover as they should. A rotation of crops that includes clover enables a farmer to maintain the fertility of his land with less expense than is possible in the case of a rotation without clover, provided he can get good growths of it. Medium or red clover is by far the most valuable variety, supplying the wants of a majority of farmers more nearly than mammoth or alsike or crimson, though these three varieties have their place.

WHEN TO SOW.—It is my experience that more seedings of clover are lost by midsummer droughts than by spring freezes. In the latitude of Cincinnati, late February sowing is comparatively safe, though much depends upon the condition of the soil. If it is honey-combed by frost sufficiently to let the seed fall into crevices half an inch deep, the soil that falls upon it by action of frost or water prevents germination until the earth warms up a little, and a chance freeze later in the season rarely kills it. It is usually the case that if a man once loses an early seeding of clover by a late freeze, he will choose late seeding thereafter, though droughts may cause the loss of the late seedings comparatively frequently. In

loose, black soils the time is not so important as in clayey land, which is firm by spring rains and affords a very poor seed-bed for clover, unless seeded before frosts are past.

WHERE TO SEED.—Wheat is a good nurse crop for clover, and rye is even better, if sown not too thick and pastured when the soil is dry. For thin land this is probably as safe a way of getting a catch of clover as we have, but all stock should be taken off by midsummer, and the remaining rye-stems mowed for a mulch. On ordinary land, seeding the clover with wheat is the best plan. Oats are less satisfactory as a nurse crop. They stool too much, ripen too late, and when harvested leave a stunted growth of clover exposed to the hot sun. When an oat-field is intended for seeding to clover, I use less seed-oats per acre, reducing the yield for the sake of giving the clover a better chance.

CARE OF CLOVER.—No one should sow clover unless he intends to give it as good care as any other important crop. It is all wrong to pasture the stubble-fields after wheat harvest, expecting to get the benefit of the young growth of clover the first year, and then have a fine stand the next spring. Only the strongest soils will bear such treatment. The wheat should be cut high, leaving a long stubble. This protects the tender clover-plants until they harden. Just as soon as some summer weeds spring up, the stubble should be clipped, tilting the cutter-bar well up. The tops of the rankest plants of clover, the wheat stubble and the weeds form a mulch that protects the clover-roots. A second clipping in September often does good. Manure should be spread on the thin spots, and its use in this way gives larger returns than upon the old sod intended for corn. If we nurse the clover, getting an even growth, it will furnish the plant-food cheaply. A crop of hay and one of seed can be removed, and the soil then be left more productive than it was before the clover was grown, but if we would maintain fertility, the manure from the clover should be returned to the soil.

MAMMOTH CLOVER.—This variety should be seeded in the spring, and treated like medium clover when young. It may be profitably used when no hay is wanted. When grown on good soil, it is unfit for hay, being coarse and woody and inclined to fall before ready for harvest. It produces only one crop in the year, the hay crop and the seed crop being the same, unlike medium or red clover. It is a grand fertilizing crop, and produces heavy yields of seed. As it falls, the heads incline upward, and they can be clipped off without removing all the stem. With care, one half the top can be left on the ground, just where it is needed and wanted, while the seed is saved, and gives a good rental for the land. For mixed seeding of timothy and clover, the mammoth is preferred to the red by many, because it ripens more nearly with timothy, and makes fair hay when dwarfed somewhat by the timothy and held up by it till harvest. For all purposes, however, the red clover is deservedly more popular in this country.

CRIMSON, OR SCARLET, CLOVER.—Do not sow this clover in the spring, as spring seeding usually fails to give satisfactory results. It is an annual, and asks for only nine months to do all its work, while red clover wants eighteen months. It thrives in a warm latitude, coming to its greatest perfection in New Jersey, Delaware, and more southern states, but succeeds nicely in the Ohio valley north of the river, when the season favors fall growth. It is seeded in August or late in July, and September may do in some years. Droughts are apt to prevail at this time, and the seed either germinates or dies, or lies in the ground until the fall rains come, when the growing

season is too short to let it get well rooted before winter. It is my experience that well-rooted plants can withstand very cold winters, and in warm spells of weather they continue to grow. Early in the spring the plants make rapid growth, and are in bloom in the first week of May in the latitude of Cincinnati. Crimson clover



FIG. 5.

does not make as much hay as the red, but is a fine fertilizer.

SEED TO CLOVER.—Space forbids any discussion of alsike or of alfalfa. The former gives satisfaction with timothy on low land, and the latter is especially adapted to hot and dry regions, having a porous subsoil that permits the long roots to penetrate to great depths. No matter what variety of clover-seed is desired, the greatest care should be exercised to get only pure seed. Much of our red-clover seed is very foul, as the seed crop ripens with plantain and many other vicious weeds. One should insist upon having only the best seed, regardless of prices. Foul seed is dear as a gift. The buyer, and not the dealer, is the proper judge of the purity. A simple and perfect test is with one's moistened finger thrust into the seed and then withdrawn. A single layer of seed adheres to the finger, and every seed can be examined. If two or three weed-seeds are found on the finger, that clover-seed contains enough filth to ruin a field.

DAVID.

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The human race is subject to about 2400 disorders, the large majority arising from impure blood. Hence the wide range of cures by Hood's Sarsaparilla, the greatest blood purifier of the age. "I had

Dyspep-

sia, and 3 years' treatment by physicians did me no good. I could not eat half a cracker without distress. I fell off in weight from 130 to 149 pounds. I also suffered with rheumatism, and was pretty well used up. I heard about Hood's Sarsaparilla and began to take it. I soon noticed that it was helping me, and after taking several bottles found I could eat what I wanted without any distress. Later I had salt rheum or

Eczema

come on my ankles, and I again took Hood's Sarsaparilla. The swelling went down and the eruptions healed. Then I had the grip and it left me in bad shape, with catarrh and other troubles. The doctor said I was all worn out, but might be patched up and live a year or two. But I clung to my old friend Hood's Sarsaparilla and was soon in my better health. I am alive yet, more than three years having passed since the doctor's prediction, thanks to Hood's. I am 69 years old, weigh 170 pounds, am in good health." S. S. PHILLIPS, Wardsboro, Vermont.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Our Farm.

GARDEN AND FIELD NOTES.

MONEY IN THE GARDEN.—All last season the markets were overfilled with the ordinary staples among garden crops, and prices ruled low. In some instances we could not even find buyers for some of our things (tomatoes, as an example) at any price. Yet I do not feel discouraged. We can still make a living from judicious gardening, and the times, too, may be altogether different this year from what they were last. It may be a conundrum to many of us, however, what to plant for profit. Shall we risk tomatoes again, as we did last year, for a prominent crop, or potatoes, or peas, or cabbage? I confess that this business has somewhat of the character of a lottery.

In a general way, I think it is always safer to depend on more than one crop, especially when one relies on the season's sales for a living. If one crop fails to develop, or to sell at remunerative rates, one has other crops to fall back on. The gardener who has a regular retail trade (and this is about the safest foundation) must grow a little of everything. The ordinary retail rates paid by city customers to the producer on delivery at the kitchen door are large enough to leave a fair margin of profit to the grower. The city consumer, too, can afford (and is usually willing) to pay somewhat higher rates to the gardener for his products fresh from the garden than he is to pay to the groceryman for his stale stuff. But he expects prompt and regular service, and a fair quality of the goods. Let me say here that with all the abundance and cheapness of garden stuff in the Niagara Falls market last year, my neighbors who run their wagons regularly twice or three times to the city supplying their regular customers with fresh vegetables, eggs, chickens, butter, etc., all claim that they did fairly well. Of one thing this class of farm-gardeners ever have enough, and that is of good onions. They aim to raise the quantity needed for their retail trade, and, like myself, most of them grow the Prizetaker onion by the new method. But they have no greenhouses, and but little hothed room, and so their planting is always limited. Sometimes they come to me in the fall for Prizetaker onions to replenish their exhausted supply and to be able to fill their regular orders. Another vegetable that these people seldom have at a time when there is a good demand at big prices is tomatoes in the early season (July), and I am often called upon to help them out. In early tomatoes, of course, those who have no greenhouse cannot compete with one who has and knows how to use it to best advantage for this purpose.

Then there are early peas, of which my neighbors seldom or never have a supply at the time that they sell well, usually along in June. They dread the expense for seed, as seedsmen usually ask four dollars or thereabouts per bushel. It seems to me, however, that any one can easily raise what peas he wants to plant, after once getting a start. It also seems to me that some of our pea-growers who now raise Canadian field-peas and Black-eyed Marrowfats, for which they get not over one dollar per bushel, might just as well raise Alaska, or any of the first-earlies sold by seedsmen at a high price, and offer them to neighboring planters at one dollar and fifty cents or two dollars per bushel.

In short, there is yet plenty of chance to make a living and a little money in gardening. Our aim must be to discover what things are in demand, and then raise them, and offer them to the people who want them. There is a demand for really fine melons, such as Emerald Gem and Tip Top, etc. If we raise them, and bring them before discriminating customers in town and city, we will have no trouble to find sale for them at acceptable prices. Strawberries still pay. Raspberries still pay. Blackberries still pay. If we only use the best methods, and select the proper varieties, we will have nothing to complain of in the way of pay for our labor.

RAISING SPECIALTIES.—It may be well enough for the general gardener to give some prominence to certain crops which he has learned to handle to advantage. I can do better with onions (Prizetakers and pickling onions) than with many other things. A neighboring gardener makes cabbages and cauliflowers his leading crops. Some of us also raise potatoes largely. It may be said that it is safe enough to put all your eggs in one basket, if you watch that basket. But sometimes a mishap may befall the basket, and then your eggs are all gone. If any one wants to make a specialty of any one particular crop, he should be prepared to meet an occasional failure, and be satisfied with the general average. If one lives from hand to mouth, and needs the current revenues to meet current expenses, he had better hank on a number of crops than on a single one. One may fail, but among a number there are surely some that will succeed and yield a profit. T. GREINER.

Orchard and Small Fruits.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

GRAPE-VINE LEAF-HOPPERS.

Almost with the first appearance of leaves on my grape-vines last spring came indications of hags—very small indications, to be sure. Our glass did not disclose eggs at all; we saw just a very small, white, furry something like a wee fairy in a blanket. In a few days the fur disappeared and an oblong package of a bluish-green color lay in its place. In a very short time we discovered that it had eyes and long, gauzy wings, but the wings seemed to be fastened tight to its body to the very tips, and the eyes looked idiotically at us, as much as to say, "Look if you like; don't you see I am tied hand and foot?"

In a little while the wings were loosened and tiny feet appeared, upon which he blundered about the under side of the leaf, venturing to the very edge, but turning about again with the consciousness that he could go no farther. Our next visit found him arrayed in a very gay tennis suit of buff brown, very pretty, very becoming; but when we attempt to put our finger on him, he "isn't there." He has an engagement with all his relations to dine upon our grape-vines. Now, what are we going to do about it?

We have in our employ a man who has practical ideas. When the fly season came, he said, "Why not catch these fellows with fly-paper?" So we sent for some, and the druggist sent us the poisoned kind. We placed the roll upon the top pantry shelf, where it still remains. Then he suggested that the barrel of useless coal-tar in the wagon-shed might be utilized. So we took a barrel-hoop, stretched muslin over it, attached a handle, smeared it with coal-tar, and proceeded to capture the enemy. But they were not of the kind that fall so easily into every trap, and when we gently shook the vines, they vacated for the next row. So this would not do. Our next experiment was to take eight laths, make two substantial frames, full-lath size, cover with strong muslin, and paint with tar. Two men would take these frames—on opposite sides of the rows, placing them as nearly together at the bottom as possible—then with a little cluster of the branches of some tree with the leaves still on them gently strike the vines with a downward movement. The first results were astounding. Several times in each row the workers were obliged to scrape off the enormous collection of insects, and paint over again. This was kept up, the bugs all the while rapidly decreasing, until the harvest came on, which proved very satisfactory, as we took from my vines just four thousand baskets.

I wish I might add, in story fashion, that the enemy were completely routed, and that this year I expect to reap even a larger reward for last season's labor. But I cannot, for the enemy still came upon my premises, and not knowing his ability for furnishing recruits, I can only await developments.

I will just add a few observations along this line before leaving it. First, that the insects do not seem so plentiful on the grape-vines on bright days as on cloudy ones, and it is useless to try and catch them except on dark days or after sundown; second, like the man who "sowed tares," they seem to be open for business through the entire night season; third, that they prefer delicate grapes. My Pocklington, Prentiss and Duchess were almost ruined, bearing only about one fourth of a crop.—Mrs. S. Irwin, in *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

A NEW Botanical Discovery

Which Will Prove a Blessing To Humanity.

THE WONDERFUL KAVA-KAVA SHRUB.



The Kava-Kava Shrub (*Piper Methysticum*.)

Of Special Interest to all Sufferers from Kidney or Bladder Disorders, Bright's Disease, Dropsy, Rheumatism, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, and Irregularities, Blood Impurities, and other maladies caused by improper action of the Kidneys.

A Free Gift of Great Value to You.

A short time ago our readers were made aware of a valuable new botanical discovery, that of the Kava-Kava Shrub, or as botanists call it, *piper methysticum*, found on the banks of the Ganges river in East India. From a medical standpoint this is perhaps the most important discovery of the century. The use of the Kava-Kava Shrub, like other valuable medical substances, opium and quinine, was first observed by Christian missionaries among the natives of India as a sovereign remedy for Kidney diseases. Speaking of the use of the Kava-Kava Shrub by the natives of India, Dr. Archibald Hodgson, the great authority on these diseases says:

"Intense heat and moisture of this tropical climate acting upon the decaying vegetation renders these low grounds on the Ganges the most unhealthy districts found anywhere. Jungle fevers and miasma assail the system, and even the most robust constitutions yield to the deadly climatic influences. The Blood becomes deranged and the Urine is thick and dark-colored and loaded with the products of disease, which the Kidneys are vainly endeavoring to excrete from the system. Under these conditions the other organs become affected, and life hangs in the balance. Then when all the remedies of modern medical science fail, the only hope and harbor of safety are found in the prompt use of Kava-Kava shrub. A decoction of this wonderful botanical growth relieves the Kidneys and enables them to carry off the diseased products from the Blood. The Urine becomes clearer, the fever abates and the intense suffering and nausea are alleviated. Recovery sets in and the patient slowly returns to health."

Of all the diseases that afflict mankind, Diseases of the Kidneys are the most fatal and dangerous, and this being the case, it is but natural that the discovery of the Kava-Kava shrub—Nature's Positive Specific Cure for Diseases of the Kidneys—is welcomed as a gift to suffering humanity.

Alkavis, which is the medical compound of the Kava-Kava shrub, is endorsed by the Hospitals and Physicians of Europe as a sure Specific Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Diabetes, Bright's Disease, Brick-Dust deposits, Rheumatism, Liver Disease, Female Complaint, pain in back, and all diseases caused by impurities of the Blood due to defective action of the Kidneys.

Rev. W. B. Moore, of Washington, D. C., Editor of the "Religious World," writes of the wonderful curative effects of Alkavis:

"For several years I was a sufferer from Kidney troubles, and could obtain no relief from physicians. I used various Kidney remedies but with no success. I had given up all hopes of ever recovering my health, until hearing of the marvelous cures effected by your Alkavis, decided to try same. After using the first bottle I began to experience relief, and following up the treatment was permanently cured. I cheerfully recommend your excellent Alkavis to persons afflicted with Kidney and Rheumatic disorders as the best remedy known."

Dr. A. R. Knapp, a well-known surgeon and physician of Leoti, Kansas, voices the opinion of the doctors and writes:

"The case I ordered Alkavis for has improved wonderfully. I believe you have in Alkavis a complete specific for all Kidney troubles."

Mr. R. C. Wood, a prominent attorney of Lowell, Indiana, was cured by Alkavis of Rheumatism, Kidney and Bladder trouble of ten years' standing. He writes:

"I have been treated by all our home physicians without the least benefit. My bladder trouble became so troublesome that I had to get up from five to twelve times during the night to urinate. In fact, I was in misery the whole time and was becoming very despondent. I have now used Alkavis and am better than I have been for five years. I know Alkavis will cure bladder and kidney trouble. It is a wonderful and grand, good remedy."

And even more wonderful is the testimony of Rev. John H. Watson, of Sunset, Texas, a minister of the gospel in thirty years service, stricken down at his post of duty by Kidney disease. He says:

"I was suddenly stricken down on the 22d of June with an acute attack of kidney trouble (uric acid gravel). For two months I lay hovering on the border line of life, and with the constant care of two excellent physicians, I only received temporary relief. My family physician told me plainly the best I could hope for was temporary respite. I

might rally only to collapse suddenly or might linger some time. But the issue was made up and as I had for years warned others to be ready, so now more than ever I must needs put my house in order and expect the end. Meantime I had heard of Alkavis and wrote to an army comrade (now principal of a college) who had tried it. He wrote me by all means to try it as it had made a new man of him. At the end of two months and then only able to sit up a little, I dismissed my physicians and began the use of Alkavis. In two weeks I could ride out in the carriage for a short time. The improvement has been constant and steady. I am now able to look after my business. I feel I owe what life and strength I have to Alkavis. I am fifty-five years old, have been a minister over thirty years, have thousands of acquaintances, and to every one of them who may be afflicted with any kind of kidney trouble, I would say, try Alkavis."

Another most remarkable case is Rev. Thomas Smith, of Cobden, Illinois, who passed nearly one hundred gravel stones under two weeks' use of this great remedy, Alkavis.

Church Kidney Cure Company, 418 Fourth Avenue, New York City, so far are the only importers of Alkavis, and they are so anxious to prove its value that they will send a Large Case by mail free to Every Sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Cystitis, Gravel, Female Complaints and Irregularities, or other afflictions due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all readers to send their name and address to the company, and receive the Large Case by mail free. It costs you nothing, and you should surely try it.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED

BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

Catalogue of Fruits in Colors—Fruit Varieties—Wine-making.—R. B. Provo City, Utah. There is no catalogue giving a very large number of colored plates of fruits, but you can buy colored plates of most all of our well-known fruits of the Rochester Lithographing Company, of Rochester, New York.—The Italian prune is now the most popular sort on the Pacific coast, and I think would do well with you. Beurre Anjou is a very fine late pear. As to what kinds you ought to grow, it will depend on the season when you want them to mature. You had better try the Kieffer pear, also. Some good peaches for general planting are: For early, Amsden, Early York, Midseason, Crawford's Early and Old Mixon Free; for late, Stump the World and Health Cling. The Baldwin and Beu Davis are both good varieties of apples and well known; but I think the Baldwin is not liable to do so well in your section as the Ben Davis, and I would prefer to replace it by Grimes' Golden, Willow Twig or some others. The largest blackberry I know of is the Lawton; the hardiest is the Snyder. I think either hardy enough for your section. The largest gooseberries I now think of that are especially promising are Triumph and Puyallup Mammoth. The Columbus gooseberry is also promising. The two red currants best adapted to general culture are, perhaps, the Versailles and Victoria.—An article on wine-making will appear in FARM AND FIRESIDE in the course of a few months.

Soil Not Adapted to Grapes.—M. C. B. writes: "I have a small garden in the village; the soil is a compact marl clay. When wet, it is like putty; when dry, it is as hard as the road. I have owned it six years, and put all the horse manure on it that could be worked into it, and forty or fifty yards of sand. I have put in tile-drains to carry off the water. The ground has been plowed and stirred twelve inches deep. All crops have been good but the grapes, which have been almost a failure. I have always had the best success in raising grapes here on other land, also all other garden and farm produce, till I got hold of this piece of land. Everything has had the best of care and attention."

REPLY:—It seems to me that you would be helped if you were to trench the land to be used for grapes three feet deep, and work into it a lot of caustic lime. I had a similar experience with a stiff, yellow clay, and got the best results from using lime, which seemed to warm it up and to change its whole nature. On such land, too, I should plant the grape-vines on ridges one foot high, so the roots would have a good chance to be warmed up. It is too cold for grapes now.

Fruit Varieties—Grafting the Plum—Grafting-wax.—L. E. L., Lot, W. Va. For cherries, plant Early Richmond and Governor Wood; for pears, plant Anjou, Kieffer and Angouleme; for plums, plant Lombard, Bradshaw, Dawson and Imperial Gage; for grapes, plant Concord, Brighton, Delaware and Lindley; for strawberries, plant Haverland and Warfield, fertilized with Beder Wood and Parker Earle. These should all be planted early in the spring.—Plum-trees should be grafted in the spring just before the buds show signs of starting. Apple-trees should be grafted a little later than plums.—A very good grafting-wax is made by melting together resin, four parts by weight; beeswax, two parts; tallow, one part. When melted, pour into cold water; grease the hands and pull like candy until it is light-colored, and roll into balls. When used, warm in water. If too soft, add more resin; if too hard, add more tallow. It should not crack when cold or melt in the sun.

Mulching Apple-trees with Old Chips.—H. Y. S., Fairbault, Minn. It will work all right, but the chips should not be mixed into the soil until well rotted.

Best Time to Plant Trees.—J. S., Wheeling, W. Va. You had better plant out your trees and other plants as early in the spring as the ground can be worked.

Pinhole-borer.—J. J. M., Pottsdam, Pa. The piece of peach-tree bark received is affected with what is called the pinhole-borer (*Scolytus rugulosus*). This insect seldom infests other than weak or injured trees. It is a black beetle about one tenth of an inch long, and bores into the trunk and branches of peach, plum, apricot and other trees. It is seldom abundant on many trees in one orchard at one time. The only preventive is to burn the infested tree before the beetles leave it, and then keep the trees healthy by cultivation and good care generally.

Excrescences on Quince-twigs.—J. H. R., High Bridge, N. J. The specimens of the excrescences from quince-trees have been carefully examined by Prof. Otto Bugger, the well-known entomologist, as well as myself. They do not seem to be the result of insect injury or fungous disease, but seem to be due to the growing of adventitious buds, which form these swellings the same as similar swellings are formed on oaks and black ash. No one knows what makes the trees take such freaks sometimes. I should cut off and burn the diseased parts as nearly as may be and encourage a thrifty growth on the plants.

Snowy Tree-cricket.—C. J. E. The insect that has deposited her eggs in the peach-twig received from you is the snowy tree-cricket. It also lays its eggs in many other plants having quite a large pith, and seems to prefer these latter for the purpose. It is sometimes very abundant in raspberry-canec, when it so weakens the canes that they break off when loaded with fruit. The mature insect is the green chirping cricket of the fall months. It does not feed on plants, but simply uses them as a place for its eggs. It also attacks the grape-vine and other plants. The only known way of reducing its injuries is by cutting off and burning the egg-infested canes.

Grafting on the Box-elder.—J. W., Canon City, Col. Box-elder does not belong to the so-called fruit family of plants, and cannot be used as a stock for fruits. Practically, trees will only graft successfully on the same kind; for example, apples on apples, pears on pears, etc., although as a matter of fact apples will graft on pears, or even the shad-bush, and the pear will graft on the blackthorn, quince, mountain ash and shad-bush. But in these cases the union is seldom as good as when on more nearly allied stocks, although in the case of some varieties of the pear a very good union is often formed on the quince, mountain ash and blackthorn. The thing for you to do is to buy trees and plant an orchard. It is best to cut scions in the fall and bury them in the ground outdoors until spring, or store them in sand in a cool cellar.

Best Fertilizers for Young Apple-trees.—E. F. H., Kauffman's Station, Pa. This will depend on your location and soil. In a general way, I would prefer to use large amounts of potash and phosphatic fertilizers and a small amount of nitrogen. Good unleached wood ashes are a good fertilizer for fruit-trees, but as generally obtained are too often not very valuable. They should be applied in the spring, at the rate of about thirty bushels per acre. Barn-yard manure is a good fertilizer for apple-trees, old or young. On the soils of New England and the middle states, however, it should be supplemented by adding potash, say at the rate of two hundred pounds of kainite per acre. But I would never manure a young orchard that was making a good yearly growth, for fear of encouraging a late autumn growth. After the trees commence to bear, however, they need heavy manuring.

Fruits and Nuts for Low Land—Book on Nut Culture.—B. F. B., Virgil, Oklahoma, writes: "What kind of fruit will do best on low bottom land (five feet to water)? It is a heavy red soil, with loose subsoil and much alkali. I prefer it to upland, because this is a dry country. What kind of nuts do you think would be best to plant?—Where can I get a book on nut culture?"

REPLY:—Raspberries and strawberries will do well on your bottom land, and so would native plums, unless you are liable to have late spring frosts, when they might be liable to have their flowers frozen. If it is simply a question of fruits for home use, you should also put out apple-trees, and they may do very well on such land. Probably the pecan-nut is the best for you to grow.—I do not know of any good book on nut-growing adapted to your section, but suggest that for information on this subject you write to Prof. F. A. Waugh, Guthrie, Oklahoma, who is the horticulturist of your experiment station.

YELLOW RIND, BLOOD RED FLESH!

A wonderful combination, a tremendous novelty, found only in Salzer's Golden Pumpkin Watermelon. It's marvelous. We paid \$300 for one melon! You will want it. Everybody wants it. 5 kernels 10¢, 25 kernels 40¢. 35 packages earliest vegetable seeds \$1.00. Our new creations in oats yielding 200 bu., barley 116 bu., potatoes 1200 bu. per acre! Where will it end? If you will cut this out and send with 12c. postage to John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., you will get free a package of above Salzer's Golden Pumpkin Watermelon seed and our 148-page seed catalogue free. Catalogue alone 5c. for mailing, if you mention FARM AND FIRESIDE.

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We have issued from our own presses a new and complete illustrated life of Abraham Lincoln, which is now ready for delivery. See advertisement on another page. This is one of the most valuable literary works of the year.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM CALIFORNIA.—Southern California has as fine land and climate as can be found in the United States. Thousands of people come here to winter, and a great many remain, or return home to make preparations to come back and live here. The climate is dry, healthful and invigorating. The orange, lemon, lime and grape-fruit are grown quite extensively in the frostless belt. All kinds of fruits, such as apples, peaches, pears, plums, apricots, nectarines, prunes, grapes and all kinds of berries do well here. Almost everything that is grown in the temperate zone is raised here, such as corn, wheat, barley and alfalfa. Vegetables grow the year round. This is a semi-arid country, and irrigation is used quite extensively on the high plains, although there is considerable land that does not need irrigation, water being close to the surface. Land is a little high here. J. A. H. Riverside, Cal.

FROM ARKANSAS.—White county has three kinds of land—bottom, second bottom and upland. The bottoms overflow with backwater from the large streams, and produce the wild cane, where cattle live all winter, coming out only when driven by the water. The second bottom is free from stones, and is best adapted to general farming. The uplands are not so rich, but are adapted to the fruits that have made this region noted in northern markets. These lands yield from fifteen to seventy-five bushels of corn or from one third to one half of cotton per acre. Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, grapes, plums, pears, peaches and apples have given this country a wide reputation, but I believe a variety of crops is the safest dependence. We raise two crops of Irish potatoes, and ship the earlier crop North. Red clover and timothy do not produce as well here as in the North, but scarlet clover and cow-peas are great soil-enrichers and hay-producers. Millet, redtop and orchard-grass succeed well. Corn, cotton, oats, rye, sorghum, Kafir-corn, Irish and sweet potatoes, watermelons and cantaloupes are the staple crops. Stock-raising has been less developed than any other industry. While we have several successful stock-raisers, most of the farmers have the common stock. The mild winters are just the thing for poultry and the production of eggs. Our soil is freestone, and springs are numerous, some having noted medicinal qualities. A colony of Hungarians settled in this county, and a colony of Germans in an adjoining county. The most of our settlers come from Kansas and Illinois. Cold weather begins in January; by the middle or last of February we are sowing oats and plowing the ground for corn, which is planted in March. I have lived here since 1872, and have seen many improvements. C. W. B. Judsonia, Ark.

FROM WASHINGTON.—Clallam county is traversed by the Olympic mountains, a coast range less than one hundred miles in length, running east and west, from which the peninsula takes its name. The county is named after a famous Indian tribe. Mt. Olympus, towering 8,000 feet high, is the highest peak. Here is the largest and most magnificent game-preserve in the world, where the lordly elk, deer, bear and other wild animals roam, seldom disturbed or fretted by the lead of the huntsman or the encroachments of civilization. This mountain range displays the most gorgeous scenery that ever inspired a poet's dream or tempted an artist's brush. Its mineral and other treasures are almost wholly unknown. The Olympic peninsula, situated right in the track of the chinook winds and washed by the Japan current, has only two seasons—the wet and the dry. The rainfall is enormous. Clallam county contains 1,600 square miles, has 120 miles of shore line bordering on the straits of De Fuca and the Pacific ocean, and has a population of 6,000. It is one of the richest counties in our state in natural resources, and the least developed. What of the soil and products of this county? I will say that they are worthy of investigation by the emigrant who wishes to locate where social advantages, wealth and population and the industries of modern civilization will increase indefinitely. Just as soon as a railroad is built through this county everything will multiply, and in a few short years this county will be settled up with hardy emigrants and a class of people that will make this favored land one of the best on the Pacific coast. Some real-estate sharks through the East are soliciting emigrants to come to this land of the Puget sound, by unfair means and misrepresentations of the conditions of our country. I advise all to come and see before locating. J. F. P. Blyn, Wash.

FROM GEORGIA.—Pickens county is situated at the base of the Blue Ridge. It is well watered by numerous streams and springs. It is especially adapted to the growing of fruit and vegetables, and will eventually be a leading dairy and stock country. The climate and water are all that any one could wish. After a residence of seventeen years on the great plains of the Northwest I can fully appreciate these advantages. The winters are comparatively mild; February 8th maples bloomed. There are a number of fine water-powers suitable for factories and mills. Very fine timber lines the mountain-sides and fills the rich coves, such as walnut, poplar, hickory, chestnut and mountain oak. Seven

miles north of Jasper, our county-seat, lies the Burnt mountain range, a spur of the Blue Ridge. On top of this range, a few years ago, was a flourishing settlement, engaged principally in growing corn and making blockade whisky; but since Uncle Sam has been taking an active interest in the business it has become unprofitable, and a great many of the settlers have moved away, leaving thousands of acres of unoccupied, cleared land. That section is a paradise for sheep. I came here twelve years ago as an employee of one of the marble companies. Four years ago I bought 200 acres of land within one mile of Jasper for \$1,000. I have been improving it for a dairy and fruit farm, and am perfectly satisfied with the results so far. Since the advent of the railroad the marble industry has reached mammoth proportions, making an excellent home market for all kinds of farm products. Jasper, Ga. J. R. K.

FROM TEXAS.—I think we have the best country I have ever seen. I came here twelve years ago with nothing, have made a good living, and now own a nice home. Milan is one of the best farming counties in the state. Cotton, corn and oats are the staples. The farmers are in a good fix this year—better than usual; most of them have their own meat and bread. Rockdale is a thriving town, with two railroads. Three miles from Rockdale are the lignite coal-mines. The people are very kind, and welcome strangers in a good spirit. Roses bloom every month in the year except January. L. B. Rockdale, Texas.

FROM ALABAMA.—This is a very healthful country. It is mountainous, interspersed with valleys. It is excellent for fruits of various kinds; also good for all kinds of vegetables common in this climate. Never-failing streams run all through the mountains, furnishing good water-power. There is excellent range for horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and goats. There is very fine white and red chalk here, clear of grit and without stain, and a great deal of it. There is also very fine iron ore. Should any person or persons desire to settle a colony here, I would take pleasure in assisting. Lands are cheap and society good. Knowle, Marion county, Ala. J. W. H.

FROM MISSOURI.—Bem is a thriving little town, located on the Dry Fork river. The country is nearly level. The soil is a light chocolate color on the uplands; the bottoms are black. The original timber was oak of all kinds, poplar, walnut, sugar and hickory. No country west of the Mississippi river ever produced better or larger timber. This section has been badly farmed, and is now being improved rapidly by clovering. Clover does well here. Well-improved farms can be bought for from \$20 to \$30 an acre. F. W. T. Bem, Mo.

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TREES



Class in History—Stand Up!

QUESTION—Who invented the first successful Reaper?
ANSWER—Cyrus Hall McCormick, in the year 1831.

Q.—Who builds the best grain and grass-cutting machinery at the present time?

A.—The McCormick Harvesting Machine Co.

Q.—Were their machines operated in the World's Fair field tests?

A.—They were.

Q.—Were the machines of their competitors so operated?

A.—They were not.

Q.—Why?

A.—Because they were afraid of the McCormick.

Q.—What proportion of the world's annual supply of harvesting machines is made by McCormick?

A.—About one-third.

Q.—Why did the farmers of the world buy 60,000 McCormick Mowers in 1895?

A.—Because the McCormick No. 4 Steel Mower is the best grass cutter ever built—that's why.

The new McCormick Light-Running Open Elevator Harvester and Binder, the McCormick No. 4 Steel Mower, and the McCormick Corn Harvester are unequalled for capacity, light-draft, efficiency of service and long life. Built, sold and guaranteed by the McCormick Harvesting Machine Co., Chicago.

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Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

HOW TO SECURE GOOD LAYERS.

THE breed that lays in the winter is regarded as the one which produces a profit, and this view is one held mostly by those who do not keep a record. An experiment with a flock will show that much depends on the individual characteristics of each member of the flock, and the point is to learn which of the hens are the most profitable. Experiments will also show that in the summer the expenses are much less than in the winter, as the farmer can continue to compare the work of the hens when the weather is favorable with what they have done in winter, and he should also use different foods and endeavor to note the results. Any breed can be improved if close observation is made of the individuals. Many of those who succeed in securing a high average for a large flock owe their success to discarding the hens that failed to keep up with the others, and by breeding only from the best. This is an important part of poultry-keeping, as the next year's operations will largely depend on the young pullets that were hatched to add to the flock. If every egg used for hatching could be known to have been laid by a hen that has proved herself an extra good layer, it would have a wonderful effect on the future usefulness of all. Every inferior hen that is allowed to contribute eggs to those intended for hatching purposes is a menace to the improvement of the flock, and this injury cannot be prevented by adopting some other breed, as the essential to safety is to allow no drones. There can be scrubs even among pure

THE EARLY PULLETS.

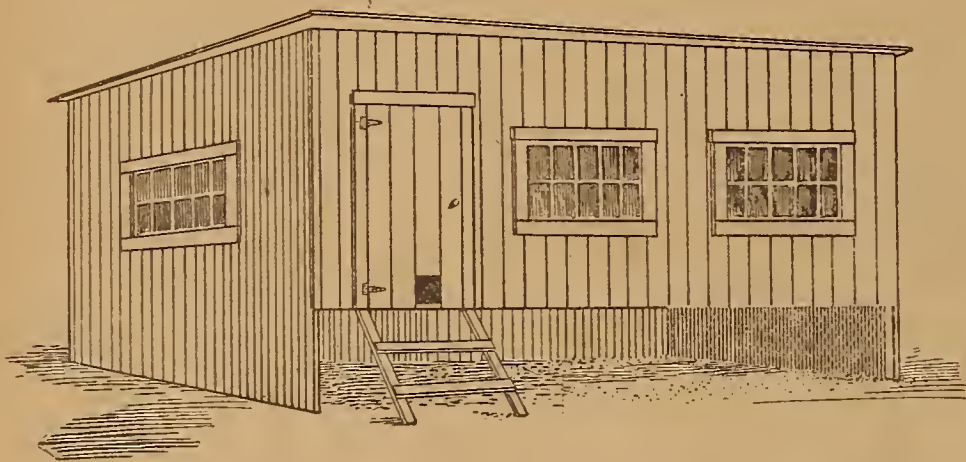
When we allude to early pullets we mean those for next year. If pullets are to be hatched, there is no time to lose. It requires three weeks for the eggs to hatch. The advantages of hatching them early is that it gives them more time for growth, and they escape lice and many other drawbacks that appear in the later flocks. It is, of course, important that the early chicks be given good care; but as the young cockerels can be sent to market as broilers, they will repay for all the labor bestowed. Comfortable quarters should be given the hens and broods, and the chicks should be forced, so as to give them a good start in the beginning. This is a necessity, as March and April are the best months in the year for securing rapid growth and success.

BEEF AND POULTRY.

The high prices for beef should encourage farmers to raise more fowls. It requires two or three years to produce a steer for market, but only a few months need elapse before a large number of chicks can be marketed. A farmer has always a home market for his poultry on his own table, and he can avoid high prices for beef by substituting poultry in the place of the more expensive meat. In this section of the United States there are large cities, as well as small towns, that will take all poultry offered, but the consumption of poultry on the farms should also reduce the supply and increase the profit of those that are shipped away.

A STORM SCRATCHING-PLACE.

The design of the poultry-house in the illustration is to show how a warm and comfortable place for scratching can be arranged with but little extra cost of the house. The size of the house may be as preferred, and it may cost more or less, according to the desires of the poultryman,



breeds, if the characteristics of the breeds are not guarded by selection. The time is drawing near when the hatching of the pullets will begin. Every pullet should be sired by a pure-bred male, and its dam should be one of the best hens in the flock.

EARLY LICE.

The lice will put in an appearance before the early pullets begin to lay in the spring, and by the time the farmer is aware of the fact, he will have his poultry-house well stocked with a large army of the depredators ready to operate on the hens. The way to prevent lice is to fight them early. Never let them get possession. Get a hand-sprayer and spray the house once a week, and do not miss a single square inch, giving the fences a spraying, also. Use the kerosene emulsion, which is cheap. To make it, get a half pound of hard soap, shave it, and dissolve it in half a gallon of boiling water, and while boiling, remove it from the fire, adding a quart or three pints of kerosene. With a sprayer, churn it for ten minutes, until it forms a cream, and the materials are intimately mixed. Then add six or ten gallons of water, and spray it as a fine spray. This is the cheapest and best lice-destroyer that can be used.

CHEAP EXCURSIONS TO THE WEST AND NORTHWEST.

On March 10 and April 7, 1896, the North-Western Line (Chicago & North-Western R'y.) will sell Home Seekers' excursion tickets at very low rates to a large number of points in Northern Wisconsin, Michigan, Northwestern Iowa, Western Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, including the famous Black Hills district. For full information apply to ticket agents of connecting lines or address C. Traver, T. P. A., Marine National Bank Building, Pittsburg, Pa.; D. W. Aldridge, T. P. A., 127 The Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio.

FALL PULLETS AS SPRING LAYERS.

A late-hatched pullet sometimes makes an excellent layer in the spring, but it depends upon her breeding how soon she will begin to lay. Some pullets mature at six months of age, while others require nearly a year to complete their growth. The slow-growing pullets should be hatched early; and as they are usually of the Brahma or Cochin breeds, no difficulty is experienced in fixing the proper period for hatching the slow-maturing and quick-growing pullets. Late hatching has its advantages in the fact that late pullets will begin laying in the spring, and they will continue to lay later the next summer and fall, for the reason that they will not molt until nearly all the early pullets have finished. They therefore fill a gap at a time of the year when the prices of eggs are beginning to increase. If a pullet does not begin to lay before cold weather approaches, she will seldom begin before spring. No matter how well the hens and pullets may be kept, the winter season influences them in laying, to a certain extent. The fall-hatched pullet may not give promise of paying expenses at present, but she will lay all through the summer.

EARLY SPRING MANAGEMENT.

When the spring season arrives, and work on the farm becomes urgent, the hens are at times neglected. The supposition is that when the weather becomes warmer, and the hens can get on the range, they can help themselves; but early in the season there is only a small portion that the hens can utilize as food. Grass is then too young, and causes diarrhea, while seeds are not to be had. Until summer comes the hens will require care. Then, again, the spring is the time when the hens should be laying, and they will be as deserving of attention as the crops, and will give as good results, proportionately, as the larger stock.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Frosted Combs.—M. F. P., Williamsburg, Ohio, writes: "Does it injure the male if his comb was frosted a year ago? He is of the Red-cap breed."

REPLY:—If the injury is healed, he is serviceable, and the only effect is to disfigure him to a certain extent.

The Best Laying Fowl.—M. B., Appleton, Wis., writes: "Which is the best laying fowl, and also for the table?"

REPLY:—It is difficult to select the best laying breed. For egg production and table qualities combined perhaps the best Plymouth Rock would prove serviceable, though no breed excels in all respects.

Hamburgs.—J. C., Elco, Pa., writes: "(1) I purchased some Silver-spangled Hamburg eggs last spring and some of the chicks had rose-combs and some single combs. Is the single comb correct? (2) I have some Leghorns with swollen eyes. What is the cause?"

REPLY:—(1) Hamburgs should have rose-combs, as single combs indicate impurity. (2) See reply to "Mrs. P. F. L." in this department.

Roup.—Mrs. P. F. L., Saugerties, N. Y., writes: "My fowls become blind, heads are swollen, and the disease is spreading."

REPLY:—It is roup, aggravated by exposure to drafts of air at night from some source, especially overhead. Anoint heads, faces and eyes with ichthyol, and add a teaspoonful of chlorate of potash to every quart of the drinking-water.

Roof and Floor.—A. M., Brookside, Can., writes: "(1) How can I get rid of sparrows which have become a pest? (2) Which is the best and cheapest roof, and its pitch? (3) Would a sand floor answer for a feeding-room?"

REPLY:—(1) There is no method of a particular kind; poison, shooting or trapping must be resorted to. (2) A tarred-paper roof, on a somewhat flat surface, well covered with gas-tar and sand, or some of the regular waterproof papers, will prove cheap and excellent for a poultry-house. (3) If the grain is scattered on a sand floor, it is as good as any other.

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Sows any Quantity Evenly, Accurately
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HATCH CHICKENS BY STEAM— With the **MODEL Excelsior Incubator.** Simple, Perfect, Self-Regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other hatcher. Lowest priced first-class hatcher made. **GEO. H. STAHL,** 114 to 122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.

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Our Fireside.

ONE OF FIELD'S DAINTIEST.

One of the late Eugene Field's daintiest children's poems he wrote and illuminated, in his odd way, in the "Baby Book" of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Hall. In those days "Biff" was a newspaper man and a great friend of the poet, and the latter wrote the poem soon after the birth of little Edward Hall. He subsequently sent it to the *Ladies' Home Journal*. The poem is reproduced herewith, but without the quaint penmanship of Mr. Field. It is as follows:

SHUFFLE-SHOON AND AMBER-LOCKS.

Shuffle-Shoon and Amber-Locks
Sit together, building blocks;
Shuffle-Shoon is old and gray,
Amber-Locks a little child,
But together at that play
Age and youth are reconciled,
And with sympathetic glee
Build their castles fair to see.

"When I grow to be a man"—
So the wee one's prattle ran—
"I shall build a castle, so—
With a gateway broad and grand;
Here an ivy-vine shall grow,
There a soldier guard shall stand;
And the tower shall be so high,
Folks will wonder, by and by."

Shuffle-Shoon quoth: "Yes, I know:
Thus I builded long ago!
Here a gate and there a wall,
Here a window, there a door;
Here a steeple wondrous tall
Riseth ever more and more:
But the years have leveled low
What I builded long ago!"

So they gossip at their play,
Heedless of the fleeting day;
One speaks of that long ago,
Where his dead hopes buried lie;
One, with chubby cheeks aglow,
Pratteth of the by and by;
Side by side, twin castles grow—
By-and-By and Long-Ago.

Long-Ago and By-and-By—
Ah, what years between them lie!
Yet, O grandsire, gaunt and gray,
By what grace thou art beguiled
That thou sharest in the play
Of that little lisping child?
Children both, you build your blocks,
Shuffle-Shoon and Amber-Locks.

—Chicago Post.

BEN DALTON'S FARM

A Story of Rural Life.

BY JOHN R. MUSICK.

Author of "The Columbian Historical Novel," "Back to the Old Farm," "Helen Lakeman," "Orland Hyde," etc., etc.

CHAPTER VII.

WIFE AND CHILD.

BEN DALTON gave the tramp a momentary stare, and said:
"You here?"
"Why, yes, my dear unsophisticated friend. If you will jog your memory a bit you will recall the fact that I met you not so many hours ago upon the road, as I was perambulating in this direction, and I told you that I was coming to the races. There is nothing strange about me being here, since I declared it my intention to come; but there is something rather singular in your presence, as you avowed your determination not to come."

There was something in the eyes of the tramp which the young farmer did not like. He tried to turn away from him, but somehow those accusing eyes were on him all the time. He felt a cold shudder run through his frame when he looked at him. At last he gave him a searching gaze, and remarked:

"Some unforeseen circumstances brought me here."

"Yes, I was quite sure it was. Nothing but unforeseen circumstances ever brings a man here; it was unforeseen circumstances that brought me here. When you get ready to join the brotherhood, just let me know, and I will propose your name; I want you for my pal."

"What do you mean? Of what brotherhood do you speak?"

"The brotherhood of tramps, to be sure; I belong to none other."

"Get out of the way, you rascal, or I will kick you," cried Ben.

"Well, I should not wonder at it if you did; one usually kicks a friend. I gave you wholesome advice, and the advantage of my philosophy and experience, but you did not take it; it cost you nothing. The best things in this world are always given away, and seldom accepted. Of course, I could not expect you to accept my advice."

"Look here, you impudent fellow, I want to hear no more out of you."

"Well, I don't think you will, as I see a policeman coming this way, and I feel a strong inward tendency to disappear."

The tramp just escaped the policeman by dodging around the amphitheater, and concealed himself in a booth until the little flurry which he had occasioned had blown over; then came out to dance, shout and yell and wave his tattered hat at the horse that came in ahead, though it was not the one he had staked his last ten cents on.

It was a fairly prosperous day for Jack Ralston, and when he and his friend left the race-course, Ben had two hundred and seventy-eight dollars in his pocket, a gain of nearly one hundred dollars.

"Now, Ben, my dear boy, don't complain at hard luck. I tell you, with your knowledge of horse-flesh, and the experience which I can give you, if you will just keep cool, I am sure you can make something on the track. The only thing you will have to do is not to get excited. Nine out of ten fail, because there is not more than one man out of ten who can keep cool under trying circumstances."

"I know it."
"Now don't be in too great a hurry about it; study a horse until you know all his points. You should not be discouraged if you lose a few dollars on him, so that you can find out what stuff he is made of."

Ben thanked him and bade his friend adieu. He went to the "Farmers' Retreat," and mounted Dick and started home. It was later than usual for him to leave town. The sun had set and the street-lamps lit before he was out of the suburbs. His heart was light and he was gay. He even ventured to sing a little song that he had learned in his boyhood. Ben's voice was not very musical, but then he

he argues that they had better forego the pleasure than to contract a debt which cannot be met.

But Ben considered the amount of his percentage, seventy-eight dollars, as clear gain, and he could afford to send his wife and child back to Pennsylvania. The poor young wife, who had never been a week from home until she was married and came with her young husband to his farm, was growing real homesick. What would he not do to gratify her wish?

"I can send her and the baby now, there is no doubt of it," he declared, as he galloped homeward.

Old Dick was impatient to be home, and as soon as they had left the city limits and entered on the broad turnpike, he struck off at a gallop which carried his rider swiftly over the ground. The night was not dark. There was no moon, but the stars shone brightly, and the distant fields and hills clothed with verdure could be seen, dimly outlined in the darkness. The young farmer was too happy in the thought of making his wife happy to pay any heed to the cold dew of autumn. The orchards which he passed were burdened with fruit, and the aroma was borne for miles on the gentle night breeze.

Occasionally, from the window of some farm-house or cabin, he could catch a gleam of light. He saw an occasional belated marketer going home. Some, like himself, were jovial and singing merrily; others were silent, and sat sleepily in their carts, as their horses jogged along.



THEY SAT AROUND THE TABLE AND COUNTED THEIR MONEY.

was not slugging to entertain any one, not even himself; he was merely giving vent to the ebullition of joy that welled up in his heart. If he felt any remorse of conscience at the business in which he had been engaged, the joy of having money to meet the payment on his farm, and enough over to send Lizzie to her parents with the baby, was so great that he thought he might be forgiven for what he had done.

"I don't believe, after all, that the race-track can be so bad," he thought. "Why, if I only had Jack to help me I would soon own not only my own farm, but half a dozen more."

Poor Ben! He did not remember the words of the tramp then, or if he did, scorned them as only the whinnings of a vagabond. He did not think of gambling; perhaps at that moment no one could have made him believe that the act was gambling, or that he would ever enter a race-track again. Ben thought only of the comfort and happiness of his wife and child. A good husband seldom considers his own comfort. It is the pleasure of his wife and children that concerns him. It is not necessary that he should yield to their every whim, for not having the knowledge of the world that he has, even the wife is not capable of judging what will add to her comfort and happiness like the husband. He looks far ahead; he sees that a luxury for the present may be bought at too great a cost, and

"I wonder if Lizzie will be sitting up and waiting for me?" he thought.

He took his watch from his pocket, and tried to see what time it was, but could not make out the figures on the hands. Then he remembered that by chance he had a match in his pocket, and he drew it out, lighted it, and held it over the face of his timepiece.

"Why, it is after ten," he said. "I assured her I would get home before dark, but she will forgive me when she learns that I have made enough to pay her way home. By Jove! it won't do to tell her how I made it."

His wife was a strict church member, and her father a sturdy old deacon. They would not approve of his betting, or even acting as cashier for one who was betting. He was puzzled to find some way to account for his gain. His wife would certainly prefer not going home to going with money earned in a way she regarded dishonest.

He at last came in sight of his own humble home. To his great annoyance he found a light gleaming in the window.

"What! up yet?" he said, in a vexed manner. "Why did she not go to bed? That woman will be a child all her life. I wish she was like other women, and would not worry about what cannot be helped."

He heard the bark of the dog, who, recognizing him, came with a joyous bound down under the hill to meet him. The door of his

house opened, and the white, patient face of Lizzie appeared.

"Ben, is it you?" she asked.

"Yes, dear; why are you waiting for me?"

"I could not go to sleep until you came."

"I am sorry you did not; I have told you so often not to wait on me. I have so much to attend to, and I am detained so long in the town, that I can't get home as soon as I would like. In the future you must not wait for me."

He dismounted at the barn gate, and led the horse inside; then he removed the saddle and laid it on the ground, led Dick to the trough to drink, and put him in the barn. Then he ascended into the hay-loft, felt about in the darkness for an armful of hay, and filled the manger. He descended, and went to the bin for a measure of oats, to which he added six or eight ears of corn, for feed for his horse.

"Are you about ready to go home?" asked his wife.

"Why, Lizzie, what are you doing out here at the barn?" he asked, as he saw her standing, with the lantern in her hand, at the door.

"I came to help you."

"Did you leave little Harry alone?"

"Yes; I got him to sleep at last."

"Was he harder to put to sleep than usual?" he asked.

"Yes; he is not well. He seems a little cross to-day."

"What do you think is the matter with him?"

"He is teething."

"Well I have good news for you now, Lizzie," said the husband, taking the lantern from her hand, and fondly placing an arm about her waist.

"What is it?" she asked.

"You shall go to see your mother now for sure; I have made the arrangements."

"How soon?" she asked.

"Well, in a few weeks, at the farthest."

"I won't complain, Ben. I won't insist on going if we can't afford it."

"I am certain that we can afford it," he answered; I know it. Matters are looking up better."

"Did you see Mr. Darrow?"

"Yes."

"And made the payment?"

"No," he answered, with some hesitation. "I saw him, and the matter was all right; but when I went to meet him at Mr. Woods' office, he had gone to the country to look at some of his farms."

"And do you have to go back again?"

"Yes, dear; but don't worry. I will lose nothing by it; I will save enough out of the business to send you home."

"Ben, I wish I could go now with Harry."

"Why, my dear?"

"Because, you see he is looking so pale, and I am so afraid that he will take sick and die before I can take him home."

"Oh, nonsense!"

By this time they had reached the house, and the young father took the lamp and went and looked on the face of his sleeping babe. It was a little flushed, and his breathing rather quick; but that was all. He coughed slightly, and the father said that perhaps he had a cold.

"He will be all right in a day or two."

He persuaded his wife to go to bed, but long after his own head pressed the pillow he lay listening to the quick breathing of Harry, and asked himself if he would really be sick. Then he thought of the bit of white crape he had seen on the door-knob of the office, and remembered hearing something of diphtheria while in the city, and on the road, and entertained just the least fear that little Harry might be taking it. But after awhile his breathing became more regular, and he slept soundly.

His wife was also sleeping, and ere long the husband slept by the side of his wife and child.

CHAPTER VIII.

RUIN.

Next morning little Harry proved to be as well as usual, and the fright that had come over his parents the night before was gone. Ben at breakfast spoke so hopefully of their prospects that his wife partook some of his spirit. He told her that Mr. Darrow was willing to give them more time if they needed it, but added:

"I gave him to understand very plainly that we did not need it."

He laid the big red-leather pocket-book away in his secretary, which was locked, and he or Lizzie always carried the key. They had never had money enough to deposit it in the bank, and consequently took care of it themselves. He had to thresh his wheat, which kept him busy for three or four days. His grain was already sold, and he began hauling it to town as soon as it was threshed.

He had just taken the last load and received his check for it, when he met Jack.

"Hello, Ben! are you getting in your harvest?" he asked.

"Yes, and have just finished it."

"Good! Did it turn out as well as you anticipated?"

"Much better," he answered.

"What are you going to do now?"

"I am going home."

"Can't you come and spend an hour or two at the race-track?"

"Oh, no, I must go home."

"I hope you are not going to desert me? I shall remain here but a few days, you know, then I am off to the Louisville races."

"Well, Jack, I will come with you some other time, but I really must go home now."

"Well, what day will you come?"

"Next Tuesday, to make the payment that has been worrying me so long. Have really not had time to do it before."

"I suppose it is the busy season with you?"

"It is."

"Well, Ben, I shall in all probability stay here until Tuesday. Come out to the track and hunt me up. I am nearly always about the grand-stand."

"I will find you. Good-by, Jack."

"Good-by, old boy, and luck go with you."

Ben went home feeling almost happy. He had now over four hundred dollars. His cattle and hogs would make up at least five hundred more. He was quite sure he could pay off the remainder on his farm and have enough to send Lizzie to see her mother. He reached home at a seasonable hour, and found such a happy smile on the face of his wife that he felt repaid for his effort to get home early.

They sat around their little table that night while the baby slept, and counted over the money and made calculations as to how soon they would have money enough to pay off the remainder on the farm and call it all their own.

"It will belong to us and Harry," said the mother, with a fond glance toward the sleeping child.

"Of course, my dear, everything is for him. We are laboring and saving up this little sum for him. It can't be for ourselves."

"He will soon be large enough to help a little about the farm."

"Yes, but most of his growing days must be spent in school."

"I will be so happy when he is large enough to go to school," said the mother, proudly.

Next day Ben Dalton began his fall plowing. The season was excellent for sowing winter wheat, and he was in the highest of spirits. It seemed that at last the dear little home, which had only been partially his, would be his own, after all.

He was busy sowing and "plowing in" his wheat until Tuesday came, and then he prepared to set out to town, this time to pay Mr. Wood the amount he had in hand, and assure him that the remainder would be paid in a very short time.

"Ben, Harry does not look well this morning," said the poor wife. "He is so pale, and so cross that I can scarcely do anything with him."

"Has he any fever?"

"He seems to have some."

"Oh, it is just a little cold. Don't get frightened, now that you are so near to the time you are going home to your mother."

"I am not frightened," she answered. "Hurry home as soon as you have accomplished what you went for."

He assured her he would, and mounting Dick, galloped away.

"Luck has certainly been on my side," he thought, as he sped away toward the city. "If I could only meet Jack to-day and succeed as well as I did before, I would do well."

He went to the race-course that day, instead of going to Mr. Wood's office, and not finding Jack, made some ventures of his own. He put up on the winner and made fifty dollars in a few moments. Then he doubled the amount and won again. That strange dread of gambling which unnerves a beginner was wearing away. He became a professional sport in a very short time, and won and lost without making any reckoning of it. He forgot to go to Mr. Wood's office until it was closed for the day, and went home. He had a heavy pocket-book and a light heart. He was home in tolerable season; the baby again seemed better, and the young and inexperienced parents thought he would be well in a few days. Ben never talked so hopefully as he did to his wife.

"We will be rich some day," he declared. "If you will only be patient for a little while, my dear, you shall ride in your own carriage."

"I don't want a carriage, Ben; I am content with our own little home. All I want is baby and you, and to know that we are out of debt."

"We are not out of debt yet, my dear, but I shall have the money to pay off all we owe on our farm, and have enough left to send you home and buy another farm. I hope to live to see the day when I can travel from here to Columbus on my own land."

"Oh, Ben, don't covet that much! It would only make you miserable. Be content with less. Be content with your own little farm."

As Ben went to town that day, he counted his money on hand, and it was over nine hundred dollars. He had enough to pay all he owed on his farm and send his wife to her parents. Had he had the strength, when he reached the city, to have said, "I will not go near the race-track," and kept the resolution, he would have been spared untold misery.

He was careful to avoid the office of Mr. Wood, and went to the fashionable house where Jack stopped, which was a noted resort for gentlemen who patronized the turf.

"Hello, Ben Dalton!" cried Boh Walters, a well-known gambler, whose acquaintance Ben had formed. "You are in time for the great race of the season. I see."

"Where is Jack, Bob?"

"He is in Louisville. I received a telegram from him last night, saying he would not be here for a week."

"I would think he would not miss this."

"Jack has his fish in Louisville. There is some great attraction there for him. I don't know whether it is some fine horse or some pretty girl that attracts him."

"A pretty girl, nonsense!" cried Ben. "Why, Jack is a confirmed bachelor. He would not give up the turf for any woman."

"That is because he has never yet met his match. When he does, and if she says no more races, we shall then lose old Jack. The turf will lose a great deal, too, I tell you. Jack has acquired a fortune and a fame that are marvelous, and all within two years."

"I don't believe he will ever quit it, unless he should suddenly have a bad turn of luck that would leave him penniless."

"Yes, but that will never come. Jack has been shrewd enough to plant some of his so it cannot be reached. Have you been to dinner, Ben?"

"No."

"Well, let's go in and have dinner, and then go to the track."

"I have some business to attend to," Ben feebly remonstrated.

"Business be hanged! What business can heat your luck at the turf? Why, my dear sir, if you had only had the courage to launch out, with your judgment you would have made fifty thousand in a week."

"Don't you think I have the courage?"

"Well, you have not shown it yet."

"I am just feeling my way, that is all."

"I should think that you were almost ready to launch out."

They went to dinner, and by the time the meal was over, Ben was so much interested in the coming races, in which his friend gave him so many straight tips, that he had forgotten his debt to Mr. Darrow. He went with Boh to the race-course, and consented to even take a drink out of Bob's private flask, and before he hardly knew what he was doing, he was betting and losing heavily. The heavier he lost, the heavier he bet.

He drank again and again, and, unaccustomed to the liquor as he was, he was almost wild. He saw his money slipping through his hands, and laughed and shouted with demoniacal joy. It was all gone! Then he bet his crop, his bond for his deed, which, being negotiable, he could dispose of. All were lost. Last came his saddle-horse.

Boh came to him and asked him to stop. "You will ruin yourself, Ben," he said.

"Let him go. I will win all back this time or go broke!" he cried.

Dick, his faithful saddle-horse, was staked and lost. He gave an order for the animal, and then, with brain reeling, staggered away to where a gang of idlers and loafers were assembled.

"Well, you have come to join the brotherhood," said a voice at his side. He turned his blurred eyes upon the speaker, and recognized Happy Joe, the tramp. His brain was whirling, and he staggered, and fell unconscious in the arms of the tramp.

[To be continued.]

AN INTERESTING IRON TREE.

At the meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences recently, Professor Oscar C. S. Carter, of the boys' central high school, was the principal speaker.

In his address he referred to a so-called iron tree, which was discovered about one mile from Three Ton, Montgomery county, embedded in a sandstone quarry about ten feet below the surface.

The tree was about eighteen feet long, and the trunk was about eight inches in diameter. It had completely turned to iron, and was composed mostly of brown hematite, an iron ore. A portion of the tree was of imperfect lignite, which, the professor explained, greatly resembled charcoal. No doubt exists among scientists that the article referred to was a real tree, because knots were found, many of which had also turned to iron.

"The phenomenon is accounted for," said Professor Carter, "by the fact that the shales and sandstone in that neighborhood are covered with red oxide of iron, and sometimes with brown hematite, and it is supposed that the iron ore, which contains a coloring, was reduced by organic matter, and that it was made soluble in water containing carbonic-acid gas. As the water holding the iron in solution came in contact with the tree, the iron was precipitated on the tree, and there was an interchanging of vegetable and mineral matter, so that the rocks were relieved of their coloring matter and the tree took it up."

—Philadelphia Press.

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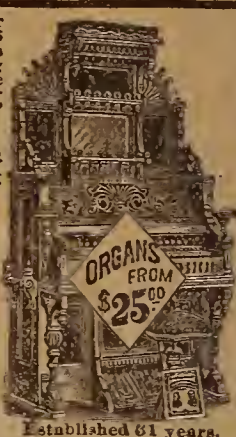
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THE ART OF LIVING.

There is in Boston a certain minister, the successor of the well-beloved James Freeman Clarke, and himself no less loved and honored, who owns now, at nearly seventy years of age, a hundred and more note-books, full of the gleanings of these years. These are not only stray passages from books he has read as he paused in long walks for breathing-time, or as he journeyed by one conveyance and another from point to point in his wide-reaching parish. To those he has added thoughts of his own, grave or gay, the strange and sad, the wise and the foolish sayings of the people whose words he has caught. There they are, long rows; of later years all of one size, a record of life as it has passed, and the only diary he has kept. Friends are allowed to turn them over and know what treasure of mirth, of wisdom, of genuine poetry, the closely written pages hold.

"That's my sermon factory," the master says, when reproached for locking it all away. "I can't turn a page without finding something that means fresh light on living, and when I can't think out what I want, I just turn the leaves and take the thing that appeals at the moment. I am coming to think that if we talked less and wrote down more, we should understand life better."

"There is too much writing already," interrupted a chronic objector. "Manuscripts are piling up on editors' desks till they obscure the sun and drive the readers frantic."

"That isn't the kind, my friend. I mean the defining of a thought, a fancy, a whim, for one's self. And then the chronicling of the queer things one hears gives a new zest to this sometimes rather mournful business of living. Do you remember how Stevenson worked? Sitting sometimes on a fence-rail and looking at his landscape, or, it might be, his foot-square or roadside growth, and seeking the best words, the truest, the crispest, in which to tell what he saw. What my people are pleased to call my style—my knack with words and phrases—comes chiefly, I think, from this lifelong habit, and I recommend it now as a source of pleasure. The wittiest things that are said seldom get into books, and I wonder, often, as I read the dull ones, what use the writer has been making of his ears."

"There is one other use of the notes that he knows less about," said one of the seniors in the family. "Alice and I help ourselves when we are going to church parties and various stately functions in which conversation does not flow easily. It is a lost art, they say, but I am reviving it a trifle, and am planning an extension of conversation class—so far only under our own roof."

"That I protest against," said the same voice. "Pedantic, didactic, unnatural, stilted. All these things and worse a conversation made to order must be. A conversation should have its birth as sprigs have theirs—from deep interior sources—and flow as naturally as a brook flows."

"That sounds well and has its own bit of truth, but I have never been able to see why cultivation had not just as much to do here as anywhere," came the answer. "If you study the story of the world's great talkers—taking the *salons* of the eighteenth century, if you choose, as the most shining example—you find everyone studied to bring the best, and knew that only the best was to be spoken."

"I protest," said the objector. "The method would turn us all into prigs. I want nature to have some chance. There are born talkers and born listeners."

"There, you confound conviction and monologue," said the master. "To learn how to draw out people is one of the highest offices of a fine talker. The talk itself will do it, for there is an electric quality in high speech that calls out an answering spark. You can train a child to tell a thing in true words; to seize upon the real points in a situation, and not cumber the tale with endless verbiage. But nobody teaches this sort of thing, and the generation grows up with some stock adjectives—'awful' and 'lovely' generally the principal ones—and no knowledge of what the English tongue can do."

"One ought to taste words as one gets the whiff of odor from mignonette," said the objector, with a nod. "English is a glorious tongue, but for most folk who use it there is no sense of this. They chew it, or scream it, or swallow it. They do everything but articulate, and the music that there is in fine English is absolutely unknown. Elocution, as we get it mostly, does not teach it. It seems to be a sort of sixth sense, that now and then is felt at work in voice and accent and choice of words, and then English is divine."

"And I am certain that this business of note-taking is one of the surest means to such an end," said the master, tucking away a note-book in its special pocket, and preparing to march on to the hotel where the party were staying, and there the subject dropped.

"I have turned it into a game," wrote one of the party some months later. "I found my young people were actually losing their really good vocabulary from much intercourse with the school-children of their own age, and so I have set the whole tribe to work, describing this or that thing they have seen, and having the criticism committee we appoint for the hour decide as to the value of the performance. 'Words, words, words, my masters,' is the motto they have chosen, and whether they use pencil and paper or the spoken word, they study values as they go."



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A LADY PHYSICIAN IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

It may interest you to hear something of the only female doctor who resides in Constantinople, writes a lady correspondent there. I made her acquaintance recently, and though I did not go to consult her, she received me very graciously, and told me something of her life. Mme. Siebold, born at St. Petersburg, in 1847, is of German nationality. She studied in Berne and Zurich, at the last-named obtaining the regular diploma. Accompanying the Siberian army during the war with Turkey, she was present when the Russian forces crossed the Danube, and worked at the headquarters of the Grand-duke Nikolai. It was here that she obtained much experience in surgical operations.

Through the recommendations of Queen Natalie, Mme. Siebold secured the appointment of "Stadharst" at Belgrade for several years, but for political reasons she was obliged to leave for Sopbia in 1885.

After the war between Servia and Bulgaria, Mme. Siebold thought of settling at Constantinople, notwithstanding that two Russian and one American lady doctor had previously failed to obtain a professional confidence from the Turkish women, and who had left the city discouraged. Nothing daunted, Mme. Siebold tried to obtain government permission to practise. It was refused. But as no written statute actually forbids it, she settled down as a regular doctor in the center of Pera, with her full name engraved on her brass door-plate. At the same time she arranged to attend daily at a chemist's shop, at Stamboul, and prescribe for the patients, and this in spite of many vexatious annoyances from the local authorities and physicians. In the end the "direction" gave orders to all the chemists of Stamboul not to accept Mme. Siebold's prescriptions. Then the patients simply went to Galata and Pera to have them made up, for there the chemists were under no restrictions.

But before all this had happened, Mme. Siebold, in order to get known at all, had to advertise in four languages, with more than one of which she was totally unacquainted. However, she mastered Turkish in the first six months of her residence, an extraordinary feat. Then she became a member of the Imperial Society of Medicine, and now she has fought her way bravely through, and has more than enough to do. Her consulting-room is always crowded with women of all nationalities between 2 and 4 p. m. daily.

Her tall, thin figure, with sallow face of Slavian type, surrounded by thick, short, gray hair, makes a striking impression. In manner she is most cordial and engaging. Intelligence beams out of her lively eyes, and great energy is shown in all her movements. She speaks German, with a Berlin accent, and all the principal languages, as only a Russian-born can.

I happened to call, for the first time, on her parents' golden-wedding day; and though she had not seen them for seventeen years, she did not dare to leave her post, for fear that her absence might be wrongly construed, and which might risk, thereby, all she had gained during the last seven years.

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And nights; these my old moons and my new
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Slow fly the hours, or fast the hours do flee,
If thou art far from or art near to me;

If thou art far, the birds' tunes are no tunes;
If thou art near, the wintry days are Junes,

Darkness is light and sorrow cannot be.
Thou art my dream come true, and thou my
dream,

The air I breathe, the world wherein I dwell;
My journey's end thou art, and thou the way;
Thou art what I would be, yet only seem;
Thou art my heaven and thou art my hell;
Thou art my ever-living judgment-day.

—Richard Watson Gilder.

HOME TOPICS.

SOFT ICING.—A few weeks ago a little slip of a girl who was visiting at our house taught me how to make a delicious icing for cake, without eggs, and we all liked it so well, I shall never use eggs for icing again, be they ever so plentiful. I had sometimes made a boiled icing without eggs, but that is a good deal of trouble.

Take one egg-glassful of milk, and stir in enough powdered sugar to make it thick enough to spread nicely on the cake. Flavor with any extract liked. This icing gets firm very soon and is not sticky, but it does not become as hard as egg icing often does.

CABBAGE SALAD.—One and one half cups of cider vinegar, one teaspoonful of mustard, one tablespoonful of sugar, one tablespoonful of flour, two eggs and a tablespoonful of butter. Let the vinegar come to a boil, then stir in the sugar, butter and a teaspoonful of salt; stir the mustard and flour together, wet it with a little cold vinegar, and stir it into the boiling vinegar. As soon as it boils up, pour it over two well-beaten eggs. Stir all well together,

SPRING HOUSE-CLEANING.—How these words bring to mind the home of my childhood in the North, where winter began in earnest early in November and lasted until April. The spring house-cleaning meant a great deal of work. The carpets must all be taken up, the windows all taken out and carried to the back veranda, where they were washed, rinsed and wiped. The woodwork washed, floors scrubbed and the ceilings whitened. In the kitchen the walls as well as the ceilings were whitened. Then the carpets were all put down again. Often some of the rooms needed repapering, and, living in the country, we always did this ourselves.

The work of cleaning a modern house is not so great in some ways. The windows,



hung with weights, both sashes can be moved up and down, and are quickly cleaned without removing them. Then all-over carpets are not so generally used, and that saves much hard work. I do not think the spring cleaning in the South is ever quite such a general cleaning as in the North. There are many warm days during the winter when the windows can be washed, and rugs taken out and shaken; and the floors are washed each time. Then closets must often be cleaned, for the clothes-moth is much more common here than in colder sections, as are other insect pests, also. So we perhaps do more cleaning in the long run than do the northern housekeepers, but we scatter it through the entire year.

SUMMER CARE OF WINTER CLOTHING.—It will soon be time to put away winter clothing. I find that barrels lined with newspaper, pasted on, and having close covers, and then a paper pasted over the top, make good receptacles for things to be stored in the attic. All garments must be clean; if not washed, at least thoroughly brushed; then I put plenty of pyrethrum-powder or a few moth-balls in each barrel. Nice dresses should be hung in tight bags made of strong muslin or drilling. If the sleeves are stuffed with paper and the dresses hung on a wire hanger, they will keep nicely. Jackets should be treated in the same way. Each barrel should have a list of its contents written out and pasted on the top.

MAIDA McL.

A YOUNG GIRL'S DRESS.

This is made in the favorite blouse style opening in front under the box-plait. The collar and belt may be of fancy silk to correspond with the goods. Buttons are used as a part of the trimming, and the collar is braided with worsted braid.

Braiding will be a distinct feature of the spring dresses, and any girl can readily do this at home for herself. If the dress is dark, use gold braid; if of a light color, use the wool braid of a darker shade.

L. L. C.

WEAK LUNGS ARE STRENGTHENED, Pleurisy, Pains relieved, and Asthmatic symptoms subdued by Dr. D. Jayne's Epectorant, a sovereign remedy for all Coughs and Colds.

A SPRING WRAP.

A very comfortable spring wrap can be readily made from a fur shoulder-cape which has gone out of date, by removing the pieces over the arms, and making it fit the body, and use astrakhan cloth or some other fur to make the epaulets and collar; or it can be fashioned as shown in the illustration, and the fur used for collar and shoulder pieces.

With the present style of sleeves, lined with fibre chamois, which keeps out the cold so well, this will be found a very comfortable garment, and one very easily made at home.

JEWEL-WORK.

For the benefit of the ladies who are so interested in linen and silk embroidery, I will explain the new jewel-work.

The dots must first be built up by nun's cotton, working over them once, and on the middle part twice. Then work them with the filo in the opposite direction, being careful to preserve the correct outline. If the dots are large ones, they look well outlined all around with a darker shade of the same color. One's own taste must largely govern the colors used, but most preference is given to the pale shades, with an occasional one worked in carnation red. There must be a regularity about them, and not a hit-and-miss effect over the whole piece.

L. L. C.

SOME SUGGESTIONS.

BUYING TWICE A YEAR.—It takes more than a grain of wisdom to know how to spend money judiciously. We buy largely at random, and thereby often get articles for which we have no use—buy them merely because we are attracted to them, not because we need them.

A plan, which has been tried and approved, is submitted to country housewives for their convenience and economy.

Buy twice a year—once in the spring and once late in the summer. Have a list of articles wanted carefully prepared before starting out on your expedition. The clothing for the family will of necessity comprise a part of the list. Invoice your stock in hand, decide what can do service another year, and what can be remade. If one can manage to buy the winter under-clothing in the spring, and the summer's late in that season, one can often save. Then there is the linen department—towels, sheets, pillow-cases, table-cloths and napkins. Happily, these, possibly excepting the kitchen towels and tea-towels, do not need to be replenished each year. The table-cloths, if past duty for the table, will make up into napkins for the children for their school lunches or for the table; or they do nicely for napkins for the butter-rolls sent to market.

For the gingham aprons, every housewife, if she be the presiding genius in her kitchen, will need not less than six each year.

Many articles in the way of needles and pins, soap, matches, etc., can be bought

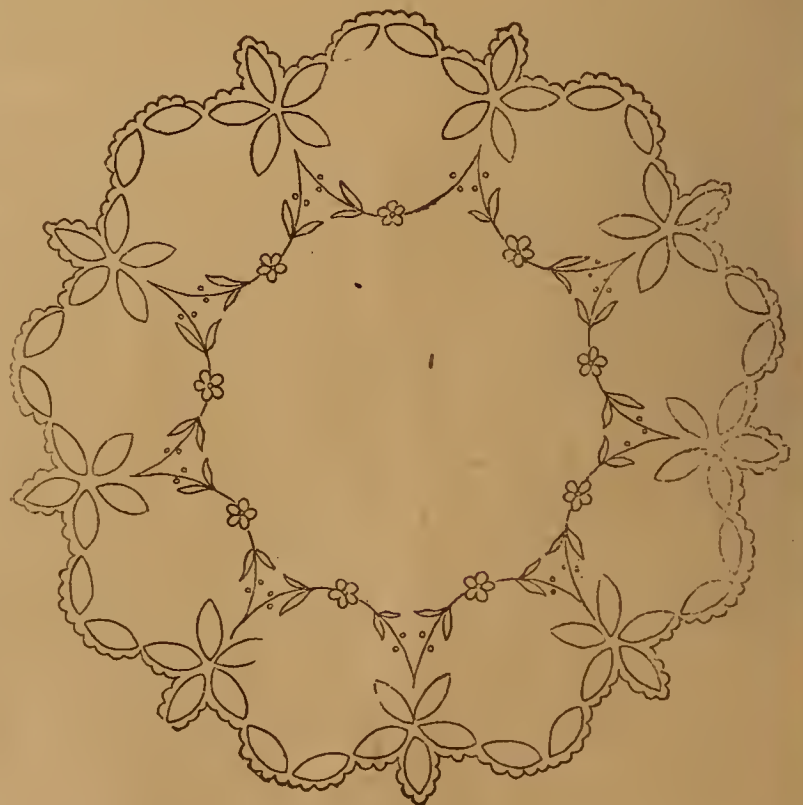


with the egg and butter money, from the home stores. Yet these can often be purchased for half in the city stores; and if one has the cash in hand, it has been found profitable to place these articles on the semi-annual list.

M. D. S.

LINEN CENTERPIECE.

A combination of Honiton braid and silk embroidery. It will require two and three fourths yards of braid for this piece, which must be first carefully basted upon the linen. The outer edge is worked in white Roman floss, in the buttonhole-stitch, the inner edge in long-and-short stitch.



For the flowers use a pale yellow, and cold greens for the leaves. After the piece is laundered, cut out the linen under the Honiton braid.

We will send this stamped linen piece (Premium No. 574) to any address, postage paid, for twenty-five cents; or with FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, fifty cents.



and pour it, while hot, over two quarts of chopped cabbage. Cover the dish, and let it stand until cold. Send it to the table garnished with sprigs of parsley or celery and slices of hard-boiled eggs. Sometimes I make it about one quarter chopped celery to three quarters cabbage.

A PIECE OF PIE

SUCH AS MOTHER USED TO MAKE.

I wonder how many young housekeepers know:

That if you mix your pie-crust, roll it out, spread with butter, mix, and roll again,

you like. Take the white of one egg, beat stiff, add at least one and a half cupfuls of powdered sugar; beat until perfectly stiff, spread over the top of the pie, and then shower with grated cocoanut.

Considerable skill must be exercised in baking this pie, for if left in the oven an extra minute, it will become too hard.

It pays any housekeeper to keep on hand a number of small pans, so that she may "bake a little pie for me, mama."

MARGARET M. MOORE.

GLOVE-BOX.

This is covered with caucary-colored crape-paper, with linings and trimmings of white. The top is ornamented with yellow carnations, touched on the edges with carmine water-color.

Select a firm box, remove the sides and ends of the lid, which proceed to cover with the white crape-paper, pulling it over the finger to make it puffy. For a hinge at the back, take a strip of new muslin one and one half inches wide and nearly the length of the box, pasting one half on top the lid and one half on the back of the box. Then put on the piece of yellow crape-paper, which is to serve as a cover for the top of the lid. Cover the inside of the box with the white crape-paper, allowing

the edges to come over on the outside of the box. Then cover the outside neatly.

Cut from the yellow crape a ruffle as wide as the depth of the box, paste this around the box straight through the middle, and ornament it with a twisted cord pasted through the middle.

Arrange the same for the lid, and have a small loop of twisted paper for the lid to be lifted.

THE CARNATIONS

—Make these of light yellow French tissue-paper, folding the paper as illustrated in diagram, Fig. 1; and when unfolded, they should look like Fig. 2. Slip five of these upon a wire, using a little paste at the base to fasten them, and crumple them into shape. Wrap the wire next the flower with green, to form a calyx, then cover this with a pointed piece of olive-green, and wrap the stem with the same. When finished, touch the edges with carmine water-color.

OTT.

PICKLED AND SMOKED MUTTON.

For eighty pounds of meat make a brine of six gallons of water, eight pounds of salt and two pounds of brown sugar. Let the meat lay in the brine one week, then freshen it one day, dip it in bran, and hang it in the smoke-house for eight days.

When it is smoked, rub off as much of the bran as can be easily removed, wrap each piece in brown paper, and sew up firmly in muslin casings. Brush the muslin casings over with whitewash, or with equal parts of wax and rosin melted together.

You can use at least one piece of mutton directly from the brine, and at least one other piece after a day or two of smoking. Five days of continuous smoking will be sufficient for any pieces that you may feel sure of using before warm spring weather.

Hams prepared in this way are equal to dried venison hams.

Pickled mutton, boiled, and eaten when cold, is certainly very fine, as is also smoked mutton.

The water in which mutton has been boiled, whether the mutton is fresh, pickled

or smoked, makes good soup stock for tomato, cabbage or turnip soup. First boil the vegetables in a little water until tender, then add the stock, let all come to a boil, thicken, and serve immediately. To a plateful of any kind of this soup except the tomato a spoonful of chilli-sauce will



be found a great addition in improving the flavor.

ANNE NEWCOME.

SLEEVES.

These are of various styles, but in the illustration will be found one very tasteful. In stripes, it can be arranged to have the



stripes meet, and in plain material can either be stitched, corded with velvet, or strapped with the same material.

GREAT OFFER TO YOU.

Clip this out, return to us with ten cents, silver, and we will mail you our great package consisting of 12 excellent books, a box of Turkish perfume and two pretty handkerchiefs. You will be delighted. Address KEYSTONE BOOK Co., 1111 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Many a young fellow, living in any small town or village, could take

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THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL gives him this chance. He can earn anywhere from ten to a hundred dollars. Just a little effort is required: the rest comes easy enough. Write to

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free to Danvers; PEAS, Heroine; RADISH, Chartier;
all. SQUASH, Sibley; TOMATO, Royal Red.
1 pkt of each for 20c. coin or stamps.
We want you to know our seeds hence this offer.
Free 1 pkt KAFFIR CORN if you name this paper.
W. W. Barnard & Co., 186 Kinzie St., Chicago.

\$250.00 FOR 4 FLOWER BEDS.
The following is the greatest collection ever offered for variety of colors, and I will pay \$100 to person who grows the largest number of colors from it: \$75 to second; \$50 to third; and \$25 to fourth. It will surprise you, and make a very interesting flower bed.
1 pkt. Alice Pansy—all colors mixed, simply grand.
1 pkt. Phlox—fancy mixed, all wonderful, showy colors.
1 pkt. Sweet Peas—Eckford's Mixed, over 30 kinds, splendid.
1 pkt. Chinese Pinks—mixed colors, hardy and very showy.
1 pkt. Petunia—all colors, makes a gorgeous show.
1 pkt. Poppies—mixed, a wonderful selection of colors.
1 pkt. Mignonette—mixed, all kinds to be found; fragrant.
1 pkt. Chrysanthemum—all choicest kinds—very choice.
1 pkt. Everlasting Flowers—all colors, flowers kept for yrs.
1 pkt. Mixed Flowers—over 100 kinds that grow and bloom.
3 bulbs Excelsior Pearl Tulips—sure to bloom early.
4 bulbs Gladioli, one each of White, Pink, Scarlet, Variegated.
3 bulbs Gladioli, fancy mixed, lovely spikes, all colors.
1 bulb Gladiolus, Lemoine, earliest of all, butterfly colors.
3 bulbs Oxalis—sure to bloom—lovely color for borders.
These 10 pkts. of seed and 13 choice bulbs (worth \$130), will all flower this season, and make a wonderful flower bed of many colors. I will send them with my 1896 catalogue, Pansy Calendar, full instructions for prizes and how to get the most colors, for 20 cents (silver or M. O.). Order at once, and you will be more than pleased. My catalogue shows a photo of such a bed.
"Cupid" Sweet Peas, the Floral Wonder, Free with each order.
F. B. MILLS, Box 123, ROSE HILL, N. Y.

Of All The BOOKS

THAT TELL ABOUT BEAUTIFUL

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250,000 Peach Trees

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42nd YEAR. 1000 ACRES.
29 GREENHOUSES.
THE STORRS & HARRISON CO.,
PAINESVILLE, O. Box 205

Mention this paper.



shortness in thy pie-dough, and all thy crustiness in thy pie-tins.

BIRTHDAY PIE.—Beat six eggs thoroughly. Add a cupful of rich cream, enough sugar to sweeten, a lump of butter, and any flavoring extract that you may prefer. Have your crust already baked. Turn this custard in, and let it come to the boiling-point. You may boil the custard first, if you prefer, slipping it in the oven for its finishing touches, if

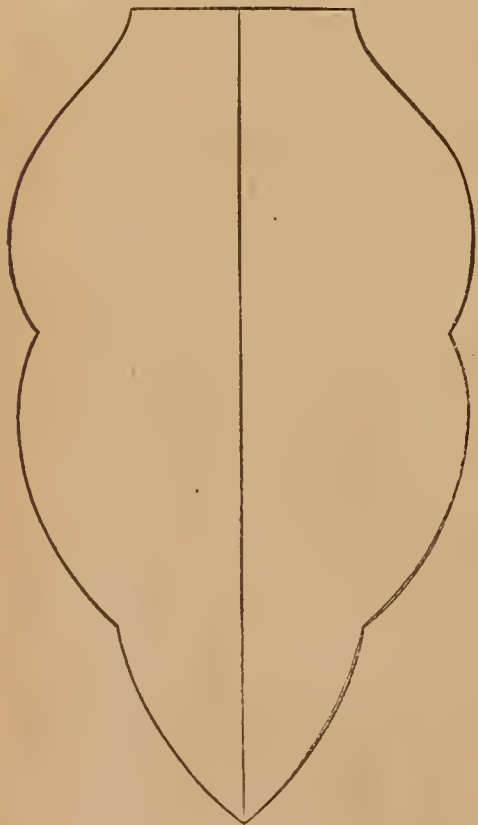
Our Household.

CRAPE-PAPER ARTICLES.

HEART-SHAPED BONBONNIERS.—White cardboard, known as two-ply, is used for the foundation of these boxes; the three-ply quality is used for the lining, as it is easily handled and of sufficient weight. Cut from a sheet of each, two heart-shaped pieces, and a strip two and a half inches



wide that is long enough to reach around the bottom. Cut just a little from the light-weight strip, or it will stand above the outside of the box when finished, and prevent the lid from closing properly. Cover a heavy piece for the lid smoothly with crape, and the light-weight piece puffed for the lining. Paste the crape neatly over the edges. Around the inner piece place a half-inch ruffle of blue crape, and paste the two pieces together so the ruffle will be between. Place under a weight to dry. Cover with a puffed piece of crape a heavy piece for the bottom, and the heavy strip with a piece wide enough to turn over at the top, puff, and turn over the edge of the bottom. After puffing the strip of crape, which is not done until the upper edge is dry, secure to the lower edge of the cardboard, turn the crape over the covered bottom piece, pasting it securely in place so it will be a firm box. Surround the uncovered piece with a blue ruffle, and paste in place on the box. When dry, insert the light-weight strip which has been previously covered smoothly with crape, paper, both edges turned over, and paste in place, pressing the edges well together. Decorate the lid with two rows of fine, light blue cord and a large bow of blue



crape. Tie the lid in place with white or blue baby ribbon inserted through two holes in each round part of the lid and corresponding holes in the box. Violet and white is a very pretty combination for this box, with violets or sweet-peas in purple and delicate pink for decoration.

SMALL BONBONNIERS.—Cut a circle from cardboard, cover one side with plain tissue, and around this paste a strip of cardboard as deep as desired, smoothly covered with crape and lined with plain tissue; turn the edge of the side-piece well over the bottom and cover with a circle of cardboard. Between the inner and outer lid

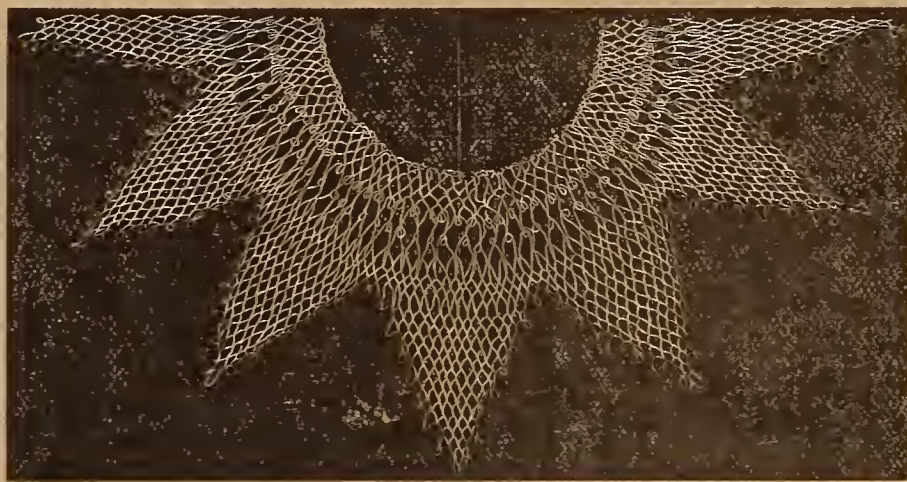
insert a narrow ruffle. A bunch of violets and a bow of baby ribbon—which serves for hinge—ornament the lid. Two inches in diameter makes a good-sized box.

TULIP.—This ornament is mostly used for toilet-bottles, but can be used for bouquets. Cut two round pieces of cardboard, cover over with white crape-paper, and place around it pieces of white crape cut like the diagram, wired through the center lengthwise, the pieces being cut lengthwise of the crinkle. Paste to the covered bottom, and cover with a round piece of plain cardboard for a bottom. Bend in shape, and tint with light green, blue or pink water-color.

M. E. SMITH.

NETTED COLLAR.

Make 110 stitches for the foundation over a large mesh. Then work three rows with a smaller mesh. Now, with the same mesh make two rows with clusters of loose loops made according to the directions given in a former paper. Next, a row with the large mesh, making two knots in every loop. Then two rows with a very fine mesh (a fine knitting-needle will do). Then one row with the large one. Now make the points with a medium-sized mesh, with fifteen meshes for the base. The foundation



thread should be removed when completed, and the top finished with a row of single crochet, one stitch through every loop.

GRACE McCOWEN.

KNITTED STORM-HELMET.

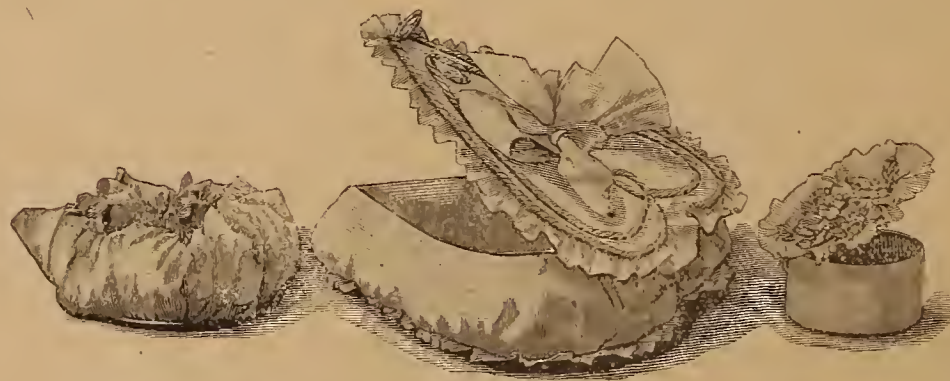
Two ounces of pansy-wool, four knitting-needles, No. 14. Cast on the four needles, equally divided, 84 stitches.

First row—Knit plain.

Second row—Knit three, purl three, and keep on until you have made an inch and one half of ribbing.

Take off on one needle 22 stitches, that you do not knit at present.

Knit back and forth of the others, 40 rows in this way:—Knit 12, narrow one, knit 36, narrow one, knit 12. Continue this, always keeping the 12 stitches at each end,



until you have only ten stitches left, then divide on two needles, knit together, and bind off.

Take up with the stitches you left on the needle, and rib one and one half inches.

For the neck-protector, take up the stitches of one half of the helmet, knit back and forth like garter knitting, narrowing at each side till you have 8 stitches. Bind off, and do the same with the other half.

These are a great protection to men and boys who ride a great deal in the wind and snow, and for teaming in very cold weather.

If men would protect themselves better in severe weather, we would have less catarrh.

LIBBIE L.

IRRITATION OF THE THROAT AND HOARSENESS are immediately relieved by "Brown's Bronchial Troches." Have them always ready.

IVORY SOAP

IT FLOATS

Are your dishes rough and dull looking when they come on the table? Were they washed with a rosin soap? Rosin is sticky. Ivory Soap washes clean and rinses readily.

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO., CHICAGO.

A MODEST SMOKE-HOUSE.

In these days, when creosote is an acknowledged cure for consumption, the more home smoke-houses in the land the better the prospect for unconscious creosote cure. Smoking is a distinctively healthful method of preserving meat.

However, a well-built smoke-house costs a pretty penny, and is a luxury that landlords are not required to furnish to their tenants. But any one who has a good-sized yard can put a headless and bottomless flour-barrel to no better use than to make a smoke-house of it.

way several times. Have also tried tobacco tea.

WM. GRAY.

Kansas.

ANSWER:—Tobacco tea applied almost boiling hot, when the soil is rather dry, will be found an effectual remedy; and it will at the same time enrich the soil. A tea made of cayenne pepper and applied when hot, is also a sure remedy. The "worms" are the larvae of the fly referred to, and generate from eggs which the fly deposits in the damp soil.

Cock-a-doodle doo—

My dame has lost her shoe;
But CUPID Hair-Pins held
her hair—
Or she'd have lost that too.

It's in the TWIST.

By the makers
of the famous DeLONG
Hock and Eye.



Richardson & DeLong Bros.,
Philadelphia.

FREE SILK REMNANTS. We will send FREE to any person one large package of SILK REMNANTS, for crazy patch-work. Send this advertisement in a letter, to LYNN & CO., 45 Bond Street, New York.

WALL PAPER!

The Cut-Rate House sends 100 Spring Samples free for 2c. postage. Golds, 4c. roll up; Fine Gilt Parlor Styles, 7c. up; Embossed, 10c. up; 10¢ discount for Cash. 50c. secures large sample books for the trade. Increased discounts. Keim Wall Paper Co., 421 Elm St., Cincinnati, O.

OLD RAGS

or new rags colored with "PERFECTION" Dyes will make beautiful carpets and rugs, and are guaranteed not to fade. We will send you a package each of "PERFECTION" Turkey-Red, Black, Green, Medium Brown, Yellow, and Orange dyes, or six packages, any colors, for cotton or wool, for 40 cents. Single package, 10 cents. W. CUSHING & CO., Dept. 17 Foxcroft, MAINE.

You Dye in 30 minutes

if you use Tonk's French Dyes. No other dyes like them. Dye cotton as permanently as wool. Our turkey red for cotton won't wash, boil or freeze out—all others will. Carpets, dresses, capes and clothing of all kinds made to look like new. No failures with Tonk's dyes; any one can use them. Send 40c. for 6 pkgs. or 10c. for one—any color. Big pay to agents. Apply now and mention this paper. FRENCH DYE CO., Vassar, Mich.



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DILLEY'S KING WASHER.

THE BEST WASHER ON EARTH. REMOVABLE BOTTOM. NO RUST, NO INJURY TO CLOTHES. EVERY MACHINE GUARANTEED.

We want agents and guarantee good wages to any good, lively, hustling person. Write for full description. Address **MUIR WASHING MACHINE CO., Muir, Mich.**

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UNDER A POSITIVE GUARANTEE

to wash as clean as can be done on the 75,000 in use. washboard and with much more ease. This applies to Terrill's Perfect Washing Machine which will be sent on trial at wholesale price, if not satisfactory money refunded. Agents Wanted. For exclusive territory, terms and prices write **PORTLAND WFG. CO., Box 4, Portland, Mich.**

1896 High Grade Bicycles

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Latest models, fully guaranteed; pneumatic tires; weight 17½ to 30 lbs.; all styles and prices. Large illustrated catalogue free. Cash Buyers' Union, 162 W. Van Buren St., Chicago

WHITE WORMS IN SOIL.
MR. EDITOR:—Give me a remedy for worms in the dirt of my potted plants. The worm is a fine, white speck, and wherever they are, a fly—looking like a common gnat, possibly a trifle larger—is seen flying among the plants, and will burrow into the dirt. I have tried various remedies—sulphur, ammonia, carbolic acid, etc.—without success. It seems that enough carbolic acid in the water with which the plants are watered to kill the insects rots the plants. I have killed my plants this

laid over the top of the barrel. Over the open top of the barrel a wooden cover was then loosely laid, and over this a good bit of clean old carpet.

Result: Fine bacon, sweet hams and smoked beef and mutton that recall the days of childhood, when everything tasted so good.

FLORENCE BARKER.

SHE SMILED SWEETLY

On the Manly Man in the Full Vigor of His Magnetic Manhood.

No Use Now-a-Days for Puny, Debilitated Individuals—Everybody Can Be Quickly, Easily, Permanently Made Happy.



Sparkling eyes, a quick-beating heart, and the rosy blush of pleasure greet the strong, manly man, when he meets his lady love. That is the kind of man whose very touch thrills because it is full of energy, vigorous nerve power, and vitality. That is the kind of man that every man should be, and his magnetic presence would make everybody happy around him. Why is it not so? One of the principal reasons is the universally prevailing tobacco habit. Tobacco kills nerve. Stay with tobacco long enough, and every man will be a sallow, skinny, nerveless wreck, inspiring disgust instead of love and affection. No man who uses tobacco can be as much of a man as without it.

No grasp so strong as the death grip of a habit, and man once fully in its clutches is helpless without aid. That's why every tobacco-user has the same good excuse—"I can't quit." No-To-Bac removes this only excuse, and any one who will can quit easily, quickly and permanently. Here's an instance:

MADE HIS WIFE HAPPY.

CRESTLINE, Ohio, June 5.
DEAR SIR:—No-To-Bac has entirely cured me of the use of tobacco, and the result of the treatment has been a surprise to myself and friends. Now when I am offered a chew or smoke by my friends it is declined with thanks, and I refer them to No-To-Bac. I could not begin to tell you how many times my wife has thanked you No-To-Bac for what it has done in my case.

J. W. McCULLY.
This is only one of thousands. Talk with your wife about it, and start your cure to-day. No-To-Bac is not sold on the recommendation of men like Mr. McCully, one of over 300,000 cases cured, but can be obtained from any druggist in the United States or Canada under absolute guarantee of cure or money refunded.

Our booklet, "Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away," written guarantee of cure and sample sent free. Address, The Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

Handsome, Highest Grade, Fast, Light, Strong, Highest Award World's Fair, 1900. Also Overland Cycles, \$45, \$65, \$75. Agents wanted, exclusive territory. Establish. Catalog free.

CYCLES RUN EASY

ROUSE, HAZARD & CO. PEORIA, ILL.

WE WILL SELL YOU THE BEST BUGGY

Cart, Sulley, Phaeton, Spring Wagon, Harness or Saddle in the world at Lowest Wholesale Prices. Shipped C. O. D. anywhere to anyone with privilege of examination. All goods guaranteed as represented or money refunded. Send for large illustrated catalogue and testimonials free. Write today address (in full) CASH BUYERS' UNION 158 West Van Buren Street, B-7, Chicago, Ills.

25 PACKETS OF RARE, SELECTED, TESTED NOVELTIES IN FLOWER SEEDS. FREE.

One packet each of Sleepy Cassia, Love in a Mist, Glia, Sanative Plant, Mixed Flower Seeds (over 300 varieties), Nasturtium, Zinnia, Calendula, Clarkia, Chrysanthemum, Hollyhock, Helianthus, Salvia, Prize Poppies, Amaranthus, Fragrant Candytuft, Sweet Rocket, Asters, Giant Pansies, Agrostemma, The Cinnamon Vine, Sweet Peas, Sweet William, Fennel and Ice Plant, full-sized packets, with a year's subscription to

Agricultural Epitomist,

which is published monthly for the Busy, Practical, Working Farmer of America. Every Farmer, Gardener, Poultry Raiser, Stock Raiser or Dairyman should take the Agricultural Epitomist.

Another great feature of the Epitomist is its Household Department, known as the Chatter Corner. There are two reasons why every one interested in any of the above-named pursuits should subscribe for the Epitomist. The first reason is that it is just the sort of a paper they need, each issue abounding in short, fresh, seasonable items of interest, hints and suggestions expressly prepared for busy people. No space wasted by useless fancies, dead furrows or wasteground. Every line is productive of a good thought, every page a sermon, and every number equal to 100 pages of ordinary farm and household literature. In this respect we practice what we preach. We aim to teach our readers where the waste is on the farm, and point out the remedy. Thousands are wealthier and wiser for taking it in the past. Many thousands more can profit by taking it this and succeeding years. The second reason is no less important than the first, that every person who depends upon cultivating the soil and the resulting crops for a living and profit, should be a regular subscriber to the Epitomist. Good AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE is almost indispensable to the proper performance of farm and garden work, but good seeds are absolutely indispensable. Hence it follows that our 25 Free Seed Distribution is not the least important part of our work. If you would like Vegetable Seeds instead of Flower Seeds, send for full particulars of our Vegetable Seed Offer. This offer only holds good for 30 days, so don't delay, but send us 50 Cents at once, upon receipt of which we will send you the above named 25 packets of seeds, all rare, tested and selected novelties, all regular-sized packets, and the AGRICULTURAL EPI TOMIST one year.

EPITOMIST PUBLISHING CO., Indianapolis, Ind.

Mention this paper.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

THE OLD PLACE.

Only a turfy hollow, a moss-grown stone and a brier,
A wandering, wantoning brier where the doorstone used to be,
A wide and lonely field where the hawkweed runs like fire,
The skimming wing of the swallow, and a wind that blows from the sea!

Once round a slender steeple fluttered that airy wing;
Here stood the preacher, his lifted eye ablaze with the heaven's blue;
There were the singing-seats where my darling rose to sing—
Your ears, O happy people, that heard her, heard angels, too!

Hit her I came through the clover while the bell tolled over the wood,
The wood where we two had lingered in purple shadow and hush,
Hearing a bird's song tolling the sorrow of solitude,
And she sang the sweet song over—sweeter she sang than the thrush.

When we all turned us duly, as the old hymn left her lips,
And proud and pallid with passion she saw me in my place,
Worshipping her, and her only—that petal the wild bee nips—
Is it the rose-leaf truly, or the flush that fled over her face?

Strange and sweet are your flashes, O summers lost and gone!
In what fair land do you treasure the thrills you stole from me?
See, the old beam is lightwood; the snake slips under the stone;
There is nothing but dust and ashes, and the wind that blows from the sea!

—Harriet Prescott Spofford.

NECESSITY OF OBEDIENCE.

MANY a passionate child rules the household. The child goes into a passion because his dinner is withheld from him, or because some toy is denied him, and he refuses to be comforted until he has brought his mother to his terms. The mother says, "Poor little fellow! he has such a bad temper he cannot be controlled;" but says, "When he gets older I will whip him good;" whereas she ought to have punished him and not let him have anything until his temper had cooled down. Thus the child could be trained and taught, while in infancy, to control his temper; for as the twig is bent the tree will be inclined.

I believe that many a gallows tragedy had its beginning on the mother's lap. I here give the names of two criminals who were executed, some years ago, in Pennsylvania; one was Hugh McElroy, the other was David Jewell. Both of these men said, while on the scaffold, that if they had been corrected when they disobeyed their parents and the laws of our land, they would not have come to the gallows.

Parents, and especially mothers, will threaten the child, and say, "Now, if you do so again, I will whip you," and so on. Well, pretty soon the child repeats the same wrong or something like it, and again the threat is reiterated by the mother—"Now, I have told you for the last time," and in an angry tone, "I will whip you severely." But the correction is always in the future, so the child soon discovers that the parent is indulging in falsehood, and he goes on from bad to worse, and the end is generally bad.

The child, though he be so young that he cannot speak, if he is old enough to lift his fist and strike his mother, ought to be corrected in such a way as will teach him a lesson of repression. The parent who neglects this increases the chances of the son's going to the bad. When children are older, there are better disciplinary punishments than spanking or whipping. But when the child reaches such an age that he is useful, it may be too late; his temper may have grown into a dominating force in his character so that it cannot be eradicated.

Parents sometimes say, when children show a vile temper and shriek a good deal, that it would endanger their lives to punish them. Perhaps so; but you still more endanger their future if you do not punish them. "Spare the rod and spoil the child." I have known of broken-hearted parents wishing rather that their children had never been born than to have lived to bear such burdens of shame and disgrace.

I have known disappointed mothers and humiliated fathers to weep like children, and even grow gray between the successive visits in which they came to inquire about the boy in prison. And now, seeing and knowing these dreadful things till my heart aches, I would say to those fathers and mothers whose little families are the care of their lives, to you whose boys and girls have not yet gone astray, teach your children obedience. I wish I could make these truths blaze in letters of fire. I wish I could write these things in imperishable glowing letters on the walls of every home: Obedience, obedience, obedience! Obedience to law—to household law, to parental authority; obedience in the family, obedience to the teacher in the school-room.

Because from the first glimmering of intelligence in the child there is expression of law, let him be taught respect for it and obedience to it, for it is the royal road to virtue; to good citizenship it is the only proper and safe road.—Rev. R. R. Brady, in Free Methodist.

THE TYRANNY OF TRIFLES.

The mastery of self is the end of true living, and this mastery is shown, not in the negative attitude, by the things we do not do, but by that mental power that compels the mind to the positive attitude—the forcing of the mind to do that against which it rebels. The man gains strength as he works; his ability comes through the doing. Constantly we are met by the disagreeable fact that our happiness, and often our success, is defeated by the tyranny of trifles, which, if they were met in the normal way, with healthy attitude of mind, would hardly be discovered to exist. To attach importance to trifles evinces a lack of perspective and a loss of balance in life. The secret of the art of living is to eliminate the ugly to preserve the beautiful; to cultivate the agreeable; to eliminate unnecessary burdens to preserve strength and secure leisure. The test of wisdom is to make the inevitable minister to the whole life by the spirit in which it is accepted. The heaviest burden may be the foundation of success if put under the feet, but it will render us helpless if carried in our hands before us, the lodestone, for the eyes of the spirit.

The supreme test of character, that which measures its power for self and the world, is the prayer, "Not my will, but thine, be done." Life, then, is not renunciation, but consecration, and is too holy a thing to be held in check, to be kept from attainments by trifles. Man sees life from the heights of divinity. Lesser heights mark the distance between growth and attainment; they measure the distance between the real self and the ideal toward which every true man struggles.

The great tests are met by the power accumulated in overcoming the trifles born in each day's battle.—The Outlook.

GIRLS IN COLLEGES.

Miss Grace Chisholm, of Cambridge University, England, Miss Maltby, of Wellesley College, and Miss Mary F. Winston, of Chicago, have received special permission from the German government to enter the University of Gottingen with the same privileges enjoyed by men.

One of the most industrious students of Radcliffe College is Miss Shida Mori, a Japanese girl. Her father is a wealthy banker of Yanagawa, Kiushu, Japan, and all the family are devoted Christians. Miss Mori has come to this country to fit herself by study for missionary work in her native country.—Chicago Record.

There is a boarding-school in New York where the girls are taught to be elegant as they are taught cube root or rhetoric. One special teacher, who receives \$15 an hour for her refined influence, dresses beautifully, comes in a coupe, and pays a formal visit. She leads the conversation, discussing all the current topics of interest to polite people, and frowning down mistakes and bad taste. Everything she says and does, every gesture, and everything she wears, is said or done or worn to teach "distinguished manners." When she goes home she writes letters to the girls and the teachers, containing compliments and criticism, respectively. During the school year each girl is this elegant lady's guest at breakfast, dinner or the theater.

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Our Farm.

PICKED POINTS.

An apple-grower in my vicinity, who retails fruit, is noted for always having plump, crisp apples in winter instead of the wilted, tough apples that are generally found in market. A visit to his premises in fruit-picking time revealed the method that causes his success, which is worthy of remembrance. Instead of placing apples on floors or in barrels or boxes as picked, he piles them on the ground and covers them with bundles of corn-stalks or straw, securely from sun and rains. Here they remain until they go through the sweating process and become perfectly dry again, which requires two or three weeks. They are then stored in the cellar.

A reader of FARM AND FIRESIDE asked me the other day what I thought of buckwheat as a feed for farm animals. It is not so economical a feed as corn, even when both are the same price per bushel, except in one instance, and that is to feed to ewes after lambs drop, and never before. It seems to have a specific action on the milk secretion of ewes, and it is quite advisable to feed it to them with about one third of its weight in corn, neither to be ground. It affects the secretion of milk in cows in the same way, but in a less degree. It should be ground for cows. It is advisable to feed all domestic animals a few messes of buckwheat—say once a month—for its properties as a vermifuge.

There are many little rules that are convenient to know. To find the amount of hay in a mow, allow 512 cubic feet to a ton, and it will come out pretty nearly correct. To get the amount of shelled corn in a crib of ears, measure the length, height and average breadth inside of the crib, in feet; multiply the length by the breadth, and that by the height, and divide the product by two, and the result will be the number of bushels. To find the number of bushels of apples, potatoes or other roots in a bin, multiply the length, breadth and height, in feet, together, and this product by 8, and divide the result by 10. For each 10 inches in depth a cistern 10 feet in diameter will hold 489 gallons; 9 feet in diameter, 396 gallons; 8 feet, 313; 7 feet, 239; 6 feet, 176.

The great crop of corn and corn fodder last season was not an unmixed blessing, if it does supply the hay shortage. An exclusive corn diet for swine and stover for cattle and sheep are producing their ill effects all through the corn belt. The veterinary departments of agricultural papers are flooded with queries from the corn sections as never before. Hay being scarce and dear, farmers have disposed of that in large measure, and make stover take its place. Growing swine, fed corn alone, as is usually done, are first troubled with indigestion, and then rheumatism, apoplexy and partial paralysis follow. Stover-fed cows and young cattle are constipated, and this opens the way to an easy foothold for most other ailments they are liable to. The cause is that corn alone for growing hogs, and stover alone—or that and corn together—for cattle, are very badly unbalanced rations, and stock limited to these for sustenance cannot be healthy. The nutritive ratio of corn is 1:12.2, while growing hogs require for health a ratio of about 1:5.5. By feeding corn alone they get more than double the proportion of the heat and fat formers they should have. Growing cattle require a ration of about 1:7. By feeding stover alone they get about 1:15. If corn is added to this ration, it makes matters only a trifle better. If people feed wrong, they must expect their animals to be afflicted with disease and their pocket-books to collapse in time. Farmers' Bulletin, No. 22, to be had of the Secretary of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C., for the mere asking, is a good guide to correct feeding.

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Recent Publications.

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HOW TO MAKE \$300 YEARLY PROFIT WITH TWELVE HENS. Price \$1. Published by the author, Prof. A. Corbett, Bible House, Astor Place, New York. This book describes a patented hotbed incubator, or process of hatching eggs in horse manure.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Manual of thoroughbred stock and fancy poultry. Scotch Collie dogs a specialty.

C. N. Bowers, Dakota, Ill. Poultry annual and book of valuable recipes for 1896. Price 10 cents.

Bush & Son, Bushberg, Mo. Price-list of American grape-vines warranted true to name and of the quality represented.

Phoenix Nursery Co., Bloomington, Ill. Wholesale catalogue of trees, plants, shrubs, roses, bulbs, greenhouse and bedding plants, etc.

W. W. Barnard & Co., Chicago, Ill. Illustrated catalogue of tested field, flower and garden seeds.

The J. W. Miller Co., Freeport, Ill. Poultry guide and catalogue of thoroughbred poultry. S. L. Allen & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. The "Planet Jr." book, describing this celebrated line of garden and orchard implements.

Lewis Roesch, Fredonia, N. Y. Nursery catalogue for 1896. Leading specialty, the new white gooseberry, Chautauqua.

Miss C. A. Lippincott, Minneapolis, Minn. Catalogue of flower seeds.

G. Camerer, North Madison, Ind. Price-list of the vineless, or bunch, sweet potato.

Elbert G. Packard, Dover, Del. "Packard's seed and plant hustler," containing reliable information about crimson clover, winter oats, cow-peas, ensilage corn and best varieties of small fruits.

G. M. Lane & Co., Shelby City, Ky. Descriptive catalogue of fruit and ornamental trees, small fruits, shrubs, roses, hedge-plants, etc.

W. B. Longstreth, Gratiot, Ohio. Catalogue of standard seeds.

John R. & Wm. Parry, N. J. Pomona Nursery catalogue. Leading specialties, the Starr apple and the Koonce pear.

A. B. Davis & Son, Purcellville, Va. Catalogue of everything for the greenhouse and garden. Fine roses a specialty.

The Lovett Co., Little Silver, N. J. Lovett's Guide to Horticulture. An illustrated nursery catalogue and manual for cultivators. Price 10 cents.

W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Philadelphia, Pa. Wholesale price-list of seeds for market gardeners and florists.

E. Krauser & Bro., Milton, Pa. Descriptive circular of Krauser's liquid extract of smoke for preserving meat.

J. C. Suffern, Voorhies, Ill. Catalogue of pedigree field seeds, garden and flower seeds. The Armour Fertilizer Works, Chicago, Ill. "Abundance from field, orchard and garden." A handsome pamphlet, illustrated by reproductions of photographs of crops grown by the aid of Armour's fertilizers.

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To Clean Zinc.—E. J. C., Sullivan, Ohio. To clean zinc, apply a mixture of sulphuric acid, one part, and water, twelve parts, and rub with a cloth.

Publications of the Department of Agriculture.—W. P. R., Sheldon, Iowa. For list of publications distributed free by the Department of Agriculture, or sold by the superintendent of documents, write to Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

To Get Rid of Horse-radish.—B. P., Garberville, Cal. Thorough cultivation in some hoed crop will rid your ground of horse-radish. Market gardeners near large cities grow it as a second or late summer crop in their gardens, and have no trouble with it.

Tall Oat-grass.—R. C., Logan, Pa. Tall oat-grass is a hardy perennial, growing from three to six feet high. It grows early, late and vigorously, does well on light, dry soils and withstands droughts. It yields about twice as much as timothy. For hay it must be cut quickly after blooming, and will give two crops each season. It is bitter, and not well liked by cows and sheep. In quality it is inferior to timothy and orchard-grass.

Fertilizers for Cauliflowers.—L. K. W., Georgetown, Mass. Cauliflower requires a very rich garden soil and a plentiful supply of water. Fine heads will not form in midsummer; plant to have them head in early summer or in late autumn. In addition to heavy applications of well-rotted stable manure, you may use liberally nitrate of soda, wood ashes, etc. A few plants in the home garden may be fertilized frequently with manure-water.

Alfalfa.—J. T. M., Marietta, Ohio. Alfalfa thrives best on a mellow, sandy loam soil. It requires a deep, porous, well-drained subsoil. It will not succeed on any soil with a compact or wet subsoil. Sow alone at the rate of fifteen to twenty pounds an acre on thoroughly prepared ground, a little before corn-planting time. Earlier plantings are apt to be injured by heavy frosts. Mow off the weeds a couple of times the first season when they are a foot high. After the alfalfa gets a fair start it will choke down the weeds. For hay, cut in early bloom; cure carefully to save the leaves.

Hungarian Grass.—M. B., Alma, Mich., writes: "Is Hungarian grass good and profitable to raise for hay where natural meadow land is scarce? How much seed is required per acre? Should it be cut before fully ripe?"
REPLY:—Hungarian grass is excellent as a catch crop, and makes good hay if cut early and properly cured. It is a warm-weather plant, thriving best on well-drained, rich, loam soils. Sow after corn-planting time, at the rate of one-half to one bushel of seed per acre—the heavier seeding for finer grass. Cut for hay as soon as the majority of heads have appeared.

Artichokes.—G. W. B., Berine, Mo. Plant and cultivate artichokes about as you would potatoes. About three bushels of seed are required for an acre. Cut the tubers to one eye. Plant two feet apart in rows three feet apart. On rich, mellow loam the yield is several hundred bushels an acre. Turn the hogs in the latter part of September, and let them root for the tubers at their pleasure. Usually, enough tubers will be left in the ground for the next crop. When you wish to destroy the patch, plow under the plants when they are one or two feet high, at which time the old tubers are decayed and no new ones formed.

Squash-vine Borer.—D. L. M., Frontier, Mich. Your squash-vines were destroyed by the borer, which also works on melon and cucumber vines. As far as possible, repel the moth from laying eggs on the plants by placing near the roots corn-cobs soaked in coal-tar, kerosene or carbolic acid. If this fails, dig out the larvae from the stalk near the surface of the soil with the point of a sharp knife. Cover the first joints of the vine firmly with fresh soil when it begins to run. The vine will strike root from the covered joint and continue to grow, even if the main stalk is destroyed by the borers. Dust the growing vines with plaster flavored with kerosene.

Hops as Fertilizer.—P. E. L., Highland, Col., writes: "What value have hops as a fertilizer after they come from the brewery, and for what crops would they do the best? Also, are potash salts as they come from the chemical-works too strong for crops if applied three or four hundred pounds to the acre? And if not, what crops are the most benefited by them?"

REPLY:—Spent hops fresh from the breweries contain nearly twice as much plant-food, pound for pound, as does barn-yard manure. I doubt, however, whether these plant-foods are as soluble. If well rotted, the hops may be used as a substitute for stable manure. I would compost it with other farm manures. It heats readily, and mixed with horse and cow manure, or litter of any kind, or even muck, will be found excellent for heating hotbeds. The heat is moderate and lasting. As to the potash salts, I do not know to what exact form of potash you refer.

Garden-peas.—E. E. S., Foxboro, Mass., writes: "Please tell me if garden-peas may be kept for winter, to use in soups, the same as split peas? If so, how should they be dried and stored to keep them free from worms?"

REPLY:—Garden-peas are all right to use for soups the same as field-peas. They should be handled the same as field-peas, and be stored in any dry place. The worms to which you refer probably are the pea-weevils. The eggs of these are laid in the peas soon after the flowers fall, and the hole by which they enter grows over so completely that they cannot be seen. The grubs undergo their changes in the seed, and emerge as perfect beetles in the spring or winter. In sections where they are abundant, peas are not much raised. These pests may be largely avoided by planting very much later than usual. The seeds may have all the insects killed in them by putting them in a barrel and then sprinkling the top of them with bisulphid of carbon, and keeping it covered closely until the smell passes away. Bisulphid of carbon is very explosive, like gasoline, and requires the same careful handling. Dipping the seed into hot water, and then drying it, effects the same purpose.

Crimson Clover.—C. M. S., Henleyville, Cal., writes: "Are the fertilizing qualities of crimson clover equal to those of red clover? Will it be of advantage to land to sow in corn and break up in the following spring? Would it flourish if sown on wheat-stubble in July? How much should be sown per acre? The land I wish to sow it on is in central Missouri. Will it do there?"

REPLY:—You will find crimson clover the grandest thing you ever tried, whether in central Missouri or in California. Its quick and large growth is one great advantage which it has over red clover, and it is equal to it in almost every other respect. It makes a good soil-mulch, excellent fodder, good hay, and one of the best manure crops imaginable.

Straw.—G. M., Camas, Wash., writes: "What is the cheapest and best way to rot straw for manure when left in the field, in big piles, from the threshing-machine? Is there any cheap chemical that could be used to cause it to rot? I have tried forking it over when wet, but it has not caused it to make good manure, and I do not like to burn it, as it is required in the soil to help keep it in good condition."

REPLY:—If it is out of the question for you to utilize the straw by feeding it in connection with proper grain rations, as bedding in stables, or as an absorbent in barn-yards, you have a problem not easy of solution. Dry straw may be scattered, not too thickly, on the ground, and after a few rains turned under easily with a good plow. The damp, or half-rotted, straw may be piled up in broad, flat piles in alternate layers with unslaked lime, which is the cheapest chemical you can use to help compost it. After once forking over, the straw in these piles will be broken up short and fine.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. Detmers, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column, must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Ringbone.—J. McS., Sugar Grove, Wis. What you describe is a plain case of ringbone. Please consult FARM AND FIRESIDE of November 15, 1895.

Swine-plague.—W. L. S., Norwalk, Ohio. What you describe is a genuine case of swine-plague. More cases will have followed before this reaches you.

"Bots"—Ringbone.—A subscriber asks what will remove bots when they are in the horse. Nothing.—As to ringbone, please consult FARM AND FIRESIDE of November 15, 1895.

Probably Swine-plague.—T. F. S., Lake City, Mich. What you describe is probably swine-plague (so-called hog-cholera). Still, black pepper—or any other pepper—and milk, given as a drench, will kill almost any hog.

Foot-mange.—M. A. H., Spearville, Kan. If you think the foot-mange of your mules is not contagious, the eruption, possibly, may be due to negligent cleaning. The best you can do will be to have the animals examined by a veterinarian.

Lice on Hogs.—M. H., Bronson, Kansas. Wash your hogs in a thorough manner with a five-per-cent solution of creoline (Pearson's) in water, and then immediately remove them to clean quarters. If necessary, repeat this treatment in a week.

A Horny Scar.—J. E. F., Guthrie, Okla. All wounds on the legs of horses, and situated below the so-called horny warts, or "chest-nuts," if not brought to healing by first intention, but allowed to suppurate, will heal to a horny scar, which is permanent, and will only somewhat decrease in size in the course of time. Therefore, leave well enough alone, and see to it that the scar especially is carefully cleaned every time the horse gets his feet dirty or muddy.

Edematous Swelling.—A. H., Carus, Oreg. If your mare is with foal, the edematous swelling on the lower surface of her abdomen, etc., is not at all of a serious character. A little voluntary exercise every day, and taking care not to feed too much voluminous food, will remedy it. If she is not with foal, it probably is caused by careless or indifferent grooming. In that case I would advise you to apply, twice a day, to the swelled parts a mixture of liquid subacetate of lead, one part, and olive-oil, three parts.

Probably Contraction of the Flexor Tendons.—J. T., Cœur d'Alene City, Idaho. If your calf, now six weeks old, is well in every respect except that it cannot extend (straighten) one of its fore legs, and is therefore unable to stand, the trouble complained of probably consists in a morbid contraction of the flexor tendons. The only remedy possible would consist in a surgical operation; but as the calf is only six weeks old, and has been unable to stand for four weeks, I hardly think it advisable to raise such an animal, and would prefer, if the calf is otherwise perfectly healthy, to convert the same into veal.

A Sick Mule.—R. M. H., Gaylesville, Ala. Your mule, it seems, is affected with heaves, and at the same time very lousy, as is indicated by the irresistible itching sensation and the offensive or nauseating smell emanating from his surface. So-called heaves are incurable, but you may succeed in freeing the animal from its lice if you wash the same first with a five-per-cent solution of creoline in water or with a good tobacco decoction, and then, six hours later, with soap and warm water, and at the same time most thoroughly clean the stall of the animal. It will be advisable to repeat this treatment in five or six days.

A Shoulder-boil.—J. G. McF., Sardinia, Ohio. If the hard, gristly tumor, as large as a hen's egg, is close to the skin, you may, with a sharp, pointed knife, cut a hole in the center of the tumor and then insert into the center of the latter a crystal of sulphate of copper, say three-fourths of an inch long and three-eighths of an inch thick, and leave it there. The sulphate of copper will soon melt or dissolve, and will destroy the tumor. If you have used judgment and have the operation well performed, one operation will very likely be enough; but you must not use the horse until the wound has perfectly healed and until all the swelling has disappeared. If the tumor is very deep-seated, it will be best to have the operation performed by a veterinarian.

Infectious Ophthalmia.—W. H. H., Me-dora, Ind. What you describe are cases of infectious ophthalmia, or epizootic keratitis. If such cases occur again—next summer, perhaps—apply while the disease is yet in its first stage, three times a day, an eye-water composed of corrosive sublimate, one part, and distilled water, 500 to 1,000 parts.

About a Cow.—W. F. D., Ottawa, Kan. After you have given your cow the most heroic medicines, nux vomica and aconite included, you ask me what ailed her, and do not deem it worth while to tell me what happened before she took sick. I never prescribe medicines until a diagnosis has been made. You reverse it. I cannot comply with your request.

Strychnine Poisoning.—M. S., Garden City, Kan. If your calf showed all the symptoms of a dog poisoned with strychnine—symptoms which are exceedingly characteristic and unmistakable—there can be hardly any doubt that the calf, too, died of strychnine poisoning. How the calf may have got the poison I have no means, of course, of knowing.

Vitiated Appetite.—E. F. H., Kauffman's Station, Pa. You say your six-months-old shoats have acquired the unnatural habit of rooting at one another until they get quite sore places on them. This is something similar to wool-eating of sheep, and an indication, the same as the latter disease, that essential elements are wanting in the food of the animals. I therefore advise you to change their food and give them something rich in nitrogenous compounds, phosphates and lime salts. They surely cannot find much running at large at this season of the year. I would advise you to take them up and feed them grain, bran, etc., and give them clean well-water to drink.

An Unthrifty Mare.—R. W. R., Ungeut, La. I cannot comply with your request, because such an unthrifty condition as you describe may be produced by many different causes, and the nature of the latter does not appear from your description. For instance, the mare in question may suffer from chronic gastro-enteritis, chronic metritis, chronic affection of the lungs, a degeneration of the mesenteric glands, may be full of worms of various kinds, or may even be affected with a chronic so-called constitutional disease of an infectious character. In all such cases the sick animal should first be examined by a competent person, so that a definite diagnosis can be made before any treatment is prescribed.

Probably an Exostosis.—A. L. H., Hamilton, Ind. The hard swelling on the lower jaw of your cow is either an exostosis, caused by repeatedly bruising the bone on the edge of the defective feed-box, or possibly actinomycosis. If it is the former, and you remove the cause, it will gradually decrease in size. If actinomycosis, you will, on examination, also find some morbid changes in the interior of the mouth—for instance, more or less swelling, perhaps a loose tooth, or one or more fistulous openings. If there is only a loose tooth (molar), and the other morbid changes are insignificant, the morbid process may yet be arrested if the tooth is pulled out and the socket thoroughly cleaned with diluted carbolic acid (1:20); but if the morbid changes are extensive, and include fistulous openings, the only remedy that can be applied is the butcher-knife.

A Sleepy Mare and a Sweating One.—S. C., Redwood Falls, Minn. Your sleepy mare probably suffers pressure upon the brain, produced, may be, by some exostosis, exudate, or possibly blood-clot, etc., and from what I can gather from your description, I cannot see that much, if anything, can be done for her. It is possible that the case will appear in a different light if examined by a competent veterinarian.—In regard to your mare that sweats so easily and so much, I would advise you to feed no sloppy food, to give her no more salts, to keep her not too warm, and to feed only dry food—for instance, hay and oats. Especially avoid all kinds of watery food, potatoes included, and the excessive sweating will probably cease. If it does not, you may feed her, with each meal of grain, from one half to one tablespoonful of powdered juniper-berries, provided your mare does not object to them. They act upon the kidneys, and will increase the secretion of the urine.

"Grab" in the Head, and Scab.—C. L. W. H., Albion, Ind. The so-called grubs in the head (nasal cavities, maxillary and frontal sinuses and ethmoid bones) are the larvae of a fly known as *Cestrus ovis*. It is next to impossible to remove the larvae, particularly those situated in the most dangerous places, so that only such sheep as are in a good condition and harbor comparatively few of the larvae can be expected to survive. The prevention consists in keeping the sheep away, especially on warm summer days, from all such places where the flies are swarming; for instance, pastures and fields skirted by timber, or surrounded by hedges. Where this cannot be done, experienced shepherds seek to prevent the introduction of the larvae into the noses of the sheep by smearing tar on the borders of the nostrils. Scab is caused by the scab-mite of sheep, *Dermatodectes* or *Dermatocoptes ovis*, and is best cured by dipping the sheep in a good tobacco decoction, an operation to be repeated on the fifth or sixth day. Every experienced flockmaster can give you all the directions you need.



Stump before a Blast. | Fragments after a Blast.

Chronic Catarrh.—J. T. J., Craig, Colorado. What you describe seems to be a case of chronic catarrh. It is not so simple as you seem to imagine to prescribe for such cases. In the first place, the diagnosis is far from being sure; the only positive symptoms you give are the discharge of a "whitish substance from the nostrils, and a rattling sound when the horses breathe," while every other statement you make is of a negative character, and therefore of very little diagnostic value. Consequently, a sure, positive diagnosis is an impossibility. Besides this, the treatment of chronic catarrh, even if the latter is not altogether incurable, necessarily must be a symptomatic one, and all attending circumstances and conditions must be taken into consideration. Any treatment in which this is not done will be of no avail. There is neither a specific nor a cure-all. Hence, in your own interest I cannot comply with your request.

A Seriously Damaged Udder.—H. M. B., Winona, Minn. You can never hope to restore the damaged half of your cow's udder to a normal condition. If there are yet abscesses which discharge pus through the teats, I would advise you to make injections through the teats with a four-per-cent solution of boracic acid, or with a two-and-one-half-per-cent solution of pure carbolic acid in water that has been boiled. Manipulate the diseased half of the udder immediately afterward, so as to bring the injected fluid in contact with all the inner surfaces, and then milk out what you can in about ten minutes after the injection has been made. At the same time, wash the external surface of the udder with a one-half-per-mille solution of corrosive sublimate in water, and see to it that the cow has absolutely clean bedding. Repeat this treatment twice a day, until either the purulent discharge ceases or until it becomes evident that the abscesses cannot be brought to healing without making artificial openings.

Diseased Eye.—C. S., Urbana, Kan. You fail to state whether the opaqueness of your horse's eye is on the surface of the cornea, or inside of the interior chamber of the eye itself. You can determine this by looking sideways through the eye. If the opaqueness is in the interior chamber, and especially in the lower part of the same, and if, at the same time, the pupil shows more or less contraction, the disease, very likely, is periodical ophthalmia, or so-called moon-blindness, a disease which almost invariably will terminate in blindness. If, however, the opaqueness is only on the surface of the cornea and of a light bluish color, it may not amount to much, and may even disappear without any treatment, while if milk-white or cream-colored it will be permanent; and if its seat is in the crystalline lens, it is what is known as cataract, and incurable. The disappearance of a so-called film on the cornea is often promoted by the use of an eye-water composed of nitrate of silver, two grains, and distilled water, one ounce, to be applied by means of a so-called dropper into one corner of the eye. If your horse does not eat well, it may be that his digestive organs are out of order, and this may also be the cause of the swelling of the gums, if such a swelling is present. Young horses always have more succulent gums than older animals. Lameness is only an imaginary disease, and wherever the gums are swelled, the real cause, as a rule, can be easily accounted for, if a thorough examination is made.

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Our Miscellany.

Be a lamp in the chamber if you cannot be a star in the sky.—George Eliot.

ASSOCIATE with men of good quality if you value your own reputation. It is better to be alone than in had company.—Washington.

THE man who sits down to wait for his opportunity will sometime discover that it passed—that way several hours before he sat down.—Philadelphia Times.

THERE can be no correct history of this nation, as it has passed through this great struggle for existence, without the life of Abraham Lincoln.—Wm. A. Buckingham.

WHERE the hair is dry and brittle, with a tendency to fall out, an English restorative is the simple one of a free application of pure coconut-oil, with daily brushing. This treatment continued for a few weeks—six, perhaps—will, it is said, accomplish the best results. Masseurs use the cocoa butter in their treatment, deeming it one of the most strengthening of oils.

AN agent of the English firm that is constructing the extensive system of drainage canals near the City of Mexico told an American tourist that when they first employed native workmen their methods seemed too slow, for they put the earth and rocks in bags, placed the hags on their heads and marched off with them. So the firm ordered a large number of wheelbarrows. The natives filled the harrows with earth, and put them upon their heads, too. It was of no use—they had been doing business that way for too many centuries.

THE total vote of the Populist party, or rather, for the Populist electors, in the presidential election of 1892 was 1,040,600. At the same election, the total vote of the Populist party for members of the Fifty-third Congress was 1,122,012. At the congressional election of 1894 the vote of the Populist party was 1,263,951, showing an increase of about 150,000 over the total at the presidential election. During the two years intervening, the Republican vote increased 500,000, and the Democratic vote decreased 1,000,000. It is perhaps a significant fact that as the Populists have increased in numbers, the Prohibitionists have declined. Many radical Prohibitionists, in fact, have joined the Populist party.—New York Sun.

THE CLARK SYNDICATE LAND, FLORIDA.

In our recent issues we have made several positive statements with reference to the character of what are known as the Clark Syndicate lands in the Tallahassee country, and these statements were made by us very largely because of our confidence in the high personal character and business integrity of the gentlemen composing the management of those companies.

We have published from time to time letters of the most pronounced and emphatic character, in corroboration of the opinions and views advanced by us, but we publish this week several letters from gentlemen, well known in their representative sections of country, who have visited the Tallahassee country, because of what has been published by us, and they not only express themselves as having found everything as represented, but very much better than represented, and have become purchasers of large tracts of land for the purpose of settling in that region of country.

The publication of these letters is as gratifying to us as it must be to the gentlemen composing the management of the Clark Syndicate Companies, for the reason that in these days of land schemes and projects, it is difficult for the intending purchaser or settler to separate the chaff from the wheat, the good from the bad, and our object has been from the beginning to make only such statements as would be capable of complete verification, by such purchasers and settlers as were led to visit that region because of what had been published by us.

On page 15 of the present will be found letters from people who have been down to the Tallahassee bill country, have bought land, and who have written us their impressions of the country. We invite the attention of our readers to these letters, because they afford such strong corroboration of what has been previously printed with reference to the beauties and advantages of the Tallahassee region.

Progressive housekeepers and cooks appreciate the advantage and economy of having labor-saving inventions in their kitchens. A recent addition in this line is a meat chopper, of very simple construction, being practically in two pieces, easy to clean, and with nothing to get out of order. It is true economy to have a machine that will enable the cook to make dainty and appetizing dishes from leavings, and also save time on many things that take entirely too much of it when done in the old way. This machine is just the thing for preparing chicken salad, Hamburg steak, croquettes, coconut hash, bread crumbs, horseradish, etc., etc. Any one interested, and every up-to-date woman should be, can get price-list and description of this and many other household conveniences from The Enterprise Mfg. Co., Philadelphia, Pa., by writing them and stating where they read this notice.

HONEY AS A FOOD.

Probably most people consider honey as the equal in value for food of any sweet sauce—no better, no worse. All should know that it possesses one great superiority—ease of digestion. The nectar of flowers is almost wholly cane sugar. The secretions added by the bees change this to grape sugar, and so prepare it that it is almost ready for assimilation without any effort on the part of the stomach; in fact, Prof. A. J. Cook once styled honey "digested nectar." It will be readily seen that honey is a very desirable food for those with weakened digestive powers. If a person is very tired, "too exhausted to eat," it is astonishing how a few tastes of honey will act almost like magic. Almost no effort is required to make it ready for assimilation. Persons suffering from some forms of kidney trouble will find that honey is a much more beneficial food for them than is cane sugar.

In eating comb-honey, many strive to eject every particle of wax, fearing that, as wax is indigestible, nightmare and other troublesome consequences will follow an indulgence in warm biscuit and honey. It is true that bread is more easily digested than warm biscuit, as the latter is inclined to "pack" in chewing, but it may surprise some to know that comb-honey is really an aid to the digestion of hot bread or biscuit. The philosophy of the matter is that the flakes of wax prevent the "packing," while the honey readily dissolves out, leaving passages for the gastric-juice to enter the mass of food. The flakes of wax are indigestible, that is true, but when warmed are perfectly smooth and soft, and will not injure the most delicate membrane; in fact, they act as a gentle stimulant, and are beneficial in some forms of alimentary difficulties. The unpleasant symptoms from which some suffer after eating honey may often be removed by drinking a little milk.—Albany Cultivator.

SHE SUPPOSED THEY KNEW.

A story at the expense of the Appalachian Mountain Club, of Boston, is related in *Happy Thought*. An excursion party from the club, it appears, had gone to a rural part of the state, and in default of sufficient hotel accommodations, some of the members were obliged to seek quarters in a farm-house.

Simplicity was the order of the day. Everything was scrupulously clean, but there was a natural absence of some of the luxuries of high-priced city hotels. Some of the ladies of the party discovered that there were no keys in the locks of their rooms, and waited upon the farmer's wife. That good woman was surprised.

"Why," she said, "we don't usually lock our doors here, and there's no one here but you. But then I suppose you know your own party best."

The visitors did not insist upon the keys.

The economy of using woven wire fencing is manifold. The cost of construction is light, the cost of repairs, if a good make is secured, is almost nothing, and the saving of injury to stock is no small consideration. We would not have a rod of barbed wire on our farm. It is not only barbed, but barbarous, and more stock is injured by it than the whole cost of a good woven wire fence. We certainly would not advise our readers to construct a woven wire fence without looking into the merits of the Keystone, manufactured by the Keystone Woven Wire Fence Co., Peoria, Ill.

A HINT FOR SECRETARY MORTON.

"Elizabeth," said Farmer Cornroe, laying aside his weekly paper, "is there any more fly-leaves in the Bible?"

"Yes."

"An' is all that pokeberry ink gone?"

"Not quite."

"Got er goose-quill 'bout the house?"

"I think so; what yer goin' to do?"

"Goin' ter write to New Orleans fur a peck o' that new kind o' Mardi Gras seed that the papers is talkin' so much erbout; want ter try it in the lower bottom fields fur early pasture."—Washington Times.

FREE TREATMENT MORPHINE, OPIUM HABITS.

TO THE EDITOR:—To prove that we have a painless and certain cure for opium and morphine habits, will send free sample treatment to any person honestly desiring to be cured. Golden Specific Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

WORKS BOTH WAYS.

Much has been written about the new experimental colony established at Fitzgerald, Ga. One of the notable features of the colony is that negroes are not allowed in it, under any circumstances. Another colony, with similar restriction, is soon to be established in Ware county, near Fitzgerald. Meantime, a colony of colored people is being established on the Abbeyville and Waycross railroad, adjoining the Fitzgerald colony. In this no white people are to be allowed, under any circumstances.

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

To reduce my stock of sheet music, I will send choice pieces worth \$2.75 at store prices, to any reader who sends me the address of a few friends who enjoy music, and two stamps for mailing. G. F. TERRY, Music Dealer, Waterville, Maine.

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Discovered by Accident.—In Compounding, an incomplete mixture was accidentally spilled on the back of the hand, and on washing afterward it was discovered that the hair was completely removed. We purchased the new discovery and named it MODENE. It is perfectly pure, free from all injurious substances, and so simple any one can use it. It acts mildly but surely, and you will be surprised and delighted with the results. Apply for a few minutes and the hair disappears as if by magic. It has no resemblance whatever to any other preparation ever used for a like purpose, and no scientific discovery ever attained such wonderful results. IT CAN NOT FAIL. If the growth be light, one application will remove it permanently; the heavy growth such as the beard or hair on moles may require two or more applications before all the roots are destroyed, although all hair will be removed at each application, and without slightest injury or unpleasant feeling when applied or ever afterward. MODENE SUPERFICIAL ELECTROLYSIS.

Recommended by all who have tested its merits.—Used by people of refinement.—Gentlemen who do not appreciate nature's gift of a beard, will find a priceless boon in Modene, which does away with shaving. It dissolves and destroys the life principle of the hair, thereby rendering its future growth an utter impossibility, and is guaranteed to be as harmless as water to the skin. Young persons who find an embarrassing growth of hair coming, should use Modene to destroy its growth. Modene sent by mail, in safety mailing cases, postage paid, (securely sealed from observation) on receipt of price, \$1.00 per bottle. Send money by letter, with your full address written plainly. Correspondence sacredly private. Postage stamps received the same as cash. (ALWAYS MENTION YOUR COUNTY AND THIS PAPER.) Cut this advertisement out.

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The fame of Washington stands apart from every other in history, shining with a truer luster and a more benignant glory. With us his memory remains a national property, where all sympathies throughout our widely extended and diversified empire meet in unison. Under all dissensions, and amid all the storms of party, his precepts and example speak to us from the grave with a paternal appeal, and his name—by all revered—forms a universal tie of brotherhood—a watchword of our Union.—Washington Irving, in his "Life of Washington."

Smiles.

WILL SHE?

When the coming woman gets here,
Will she offer up her seat?
Will she offer her umbrella
When there's rain or snow or sleet?
Will she help us in the wagon?
Will she bait our fishing-hook?
Will she step into the water
That we dry may cross the brook?
Will she seize a rail and rescue
When the hully chases us?
Will she push the wheezy mower
Every eve and make a fuss?
Will she run the locomotive,
Shovel coal, and handle brakes?
Will she level mount and forest,
Carry bitters for the snakes?
Will she march to bloody battles,
Snap her finger at the hurts?
Well, I guess not; she will merely
Hide behind her husband's skirts.

—New York Sun.

DID YOU EVER SEE HIM?

THE train was about ten miles west of Ypsilanti when an oldish man came into the car with a bill in his hand and called out:

"Kin any purson here change a ten-dollar bill for me?"

Everybody was willing to try, and he finally got two fives. Then he wanted one of them broken, and he finally found a passenger who said he could give him five ones.

"I'll take 'em," replied the man, "but then I shall want somebody to hush a dollar fur me."

"Will two halves do?" asked a woman, as she investigated her purse.

"Yes, if I can't git four quarters," he replied. "I'm sorry to make all this trouble, but you see how it is. The old woman has sorter decided to stop off at Ypsilanti and visit her sister fur three or four days, while I go to Detroit and back. Her sister mayn't be home, and she'll naturally feel a little queer without any money. I thought I'd give her a quarter, but if I can't git it, why, I'll let her take fifty cents, though I know I'll never see any of it back. She'll go down town and run through a dollar in less'n two hours, and I have to keep a curb on her."

He finally got a quarter, and the "old woman" had it tied up in the corner of her handkerchief as she got off at Ypsilanti.—*Detroit Free Press.*

PAT'S GOAT.

Ex-Governor John P. St. John told a story at the Hamilton Hall meeting Friday night. It brought out a good laugh.

The ex-governor said he once knew an Irishman who owned a red flannel shirt which, for some unknown reason, he valued very highly. The Irishman also owned a goat.

One day Pat came home and found his shirt missing.

"Where is me red shirt?" he asked.

"The goat ate it," said his wife.

"I'll kill that goat," said Pat, running for an ax.

"Oh, don't kill it wid an ax," cried his wife. "I don't want to see the poor crature killed. If you must hatcher it, tie the poor thing on the railroad track and let the engine strike it."

So Pat got a rope, tied it about the goat's neck, and led the animal to the track. Then he tied it fast so there could be no escape.

A freight-train came thundering along. Pat turned his face away, and never expected to see the goat alive again. But to his amazement the train came to a stop a few feet from the goat.

A few moments after Pat reached the house, leading the same goat by the same rope.

"Not dead yet?" cried Pat's wife.

"Not dead yet," replied Pat, evidently in a very bad humor.

"What was the trouble?"

"Why, the dumb goat coughed up my red flannel shirt and flagged the train."—*Topeka Capital.*

SHOULD SUBSTITUTE ENGLISH SPARROW.

"Quail, villain!" He pointed his trusty shooting-iron at the head of the man who had been treating the beautiful maiden to a job-lot of general cussedness ever since the curtain went up. "At last I have thee! Quail!"

But contrary to the direction in Act III, Scene 2, the villain stood his ground.

"Quail, I tell thee! Why dost not quail?"

"Can't risk it on six dollars a week!" quoth the villain, with a defiant sneer saved over from the first act; "because, forsooth, quail is legally out of season, and I see the game-warden in the audience!"

Then he kicked over an Alp, waded the Bay of Naples, fell into the thunder, and only stopped in his mad flight to remark to the manager that an actor with a shred of reputation must decline to play on that stage, as there were flies on it.—*Truth.*

THE ECONOMY OF IT.

Watts—"Do you think a man can be a Christian on one dollar a day?"

Potts—"I don't see how he can afford to be anything else."—*Indianapolis Journal.*

HE GOT AHEAD.

Three little maidens were discoursing about the baby brothers who had taken up their residence in the three families during the past year.

"My little brother Ned's got a lovely silver mug that grandma sent him," said the first little girl; "it's just a beauty, and he had a silver knife and fork from grandpa, too."

"My little brother Walter's got a hee-yutiful carved rattle that Uncle Henry sent him from China," said the second little girl; "mother's put it away in a drawer to keep till he's grown up."

"My little brother Freddie's not half so big as your brothers," said the third child, with an air of one endeavoring to conceal a feeling of triumph, "but the doctor says he's had more spasms than any other baby in this whole neighborhood, so there!"—*Youth's Companion.*

EVEN THEN.

It was in the Coliseum.

"Pardou me."

Seneca leaned forward and touched one of Agrippina's ladies-in-waiting on the shoulder.

"Pardon me, but would you mind taking down your coiffure so that I can see the arena? I am particularly interested in to-day's massacre."

Her only reply was a swift glance of patrician scorn, for she knew he had come in on a press ticket.

Rome has fallen since then, but the theater hat has not.—*Truth.*

TOO GOOD TO BE WASTED.

I was amused last week at a dinner party by a hachelor who told us that his sister had asked him to find her a governess for her girls. She had enumerated all the talents and qualities she required for her salary of four hundred dollars a year, and her brother had written to her:

"I'll look out for one, certainly; but if I find a lady all that you describe, I shall marry her, if she will have me."—*Gentlewoman.*

SHE SAT THINKING.

"Ezra," said Mrs. Billtops, "you often hear of the hardships of sailors handling the wet and frozen sails in winter, don't you?"

"Yes, Elizabeth," said Mr. Billtops, "and terrible they must be, too."

"But you never hear anybody say anything about the hardships of women hanging out clothes in such weather as this, do you?"

"No, Elizabeth," said Mr. Billtops, with sudden energy, "but you ought to."

DOUBTFUL.

Willie—"Pa, did Cæsar practice polygamy?" Father—"No, my boy. What made you think so?"

Willie—"Because to-day my teacher said that Calphurnia was Cæsar's wife, and also that when he got to the Rhine he proposed to Bridget."—*Judge.*

A POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

Willie—"I know sister would be glad to go skating with you."

Ringway—"What makes you think so?"

Willie—"She says she has been dying all winter to have you break the ice."—*Life.*

TITBITS.

Uncle 'Rastus—"I done won dat turkey at de raffle to-night."

Aunt Dinah—"Yo' was lucky, eh?"

Uncle 'Rastus—"Yas, I was po'ful lucky. While de res' was shakin' dice I 'scused myself."—*Life.*

Wilsey Walker—"Say, Ragsey, dere's a guy out West curin' people of t'ings by just layin' his hands on 'em."

Ragsey Tatters—"Wonder if dat's the same bloke what told me last summer if he ever laid his hands on me he'd cure me of dat tired feelin'?"—*Truth.*

A district school-teacher in New Hampshire has had great difficulty in explaining adverbs to a class of children. After toiling faithfully with them, he said:

"Bring in a list of adverbs to-morrow. Remember that a great many adverbs end in ly."

The next day one hoy's list began:

"Slowly, fastly, lily, emily."

St. Louis girl—"That's queer. I've looked this bill of fare all over, and I can't find haked heans on it anywhere."

New York girl (superciliously)—"Have you looked under the heading 'Fruit?'"—*Somerville Journal.*

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

If you want a sure relief for pains in the back, side, chest, or limbs, use an

Allcock's Porous Plaster

BEAR IN MIND—Not one of the host of counterfeits and imitations is as good as the genuine.

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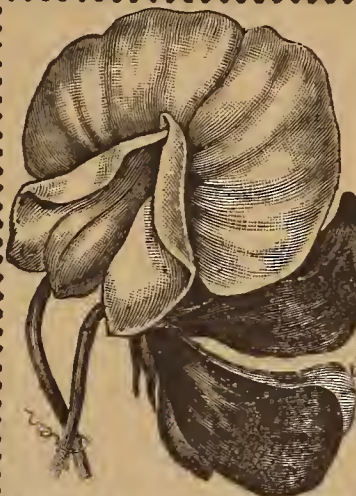
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PARRYS' POMONA NURSERIES, PARRY, NEW JERSEY.



15 SWEET PEAS

We offer fifteen of the newer varieties, viz.:—Blushing Beauty, Butterfly, Countess of Radnor, Emily Henderson, Firefly, Gaiety, Her Majesty, Lady Beaconsfield, Lady Penzance, Lemon Queen, Lottie Eckford, Miss Hunt, Orange Prince, Princess Beatrice and Splendor, one package each; also a package of the new Comet Aster, with one package of our Boston strain of Pansy, large flowering.

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W. W. RAWSON & CO., BOSTON, MASS.

GRAND PREMIUM!

To the Subscribers of this Paper.

SOLID SILVER-PLATED TEASPOONS

THE Coin Silverware Co., of Columbus, Ohio, will furnish to each of the subscribers of this paper, six solid silver-plated teaspoons manufactured for this Company. These spoons are chased in design, full size spoons and handsomely engraved, plated on solid white metal, and are guaranteed to last for years. The teaspoons manufactured for this Company are well known, and there is nothing finer of the grade put on the market by any other manufacturers; they are such as sell in the stores for a dollar a set. We do not put any expense in the matter of packing them; they are sent securely by mail, as it is the spoons we are anxious to give subscribers, and not a fancy velvet case, and as they are intended for every-day use, they can be put into the silver basket at once, and used without delay. Teaspoons are such a necessity of our daily life that we thought something of this kind would be more highly appreciated than pictures or thermometers, or any other of the novelties that are sent out at this season of the year.

THE CONDITIONS.

All that you are required to do is to cut out the Coupon below and send it with 19 two-cent postage stamps to the Coin Silverware Co., Columbus, Ohio, and six solid silver-plated teaspoons will be shipped promptly and guaranteed to be first-class in every respect.

CUT THIS COUPON OUT.

PREMIUM COUPON!—This is to certify that I am a subscriber of this paper and entitled to the six silver-plated teaspoons, and they are to be sent to my address as per the attached letter.

Address all orders for these spoons to the Coin Silverware Co., Columbus, Ohio, who will promptly fill the orders for the spoons, which are guaranteed to be of the very best quality and workmanship.

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LATE LETTERS ABOUT FLORIDA.

LANARK, FLA., Feb. 16, 1896.

EDW. BURR.

Dear Brother:—We arrived here, or rather, at Tallahassee, Thursday night. We made good connections all the way through, and the people all seemed to be in the best of spirits upon our arrival here. We were met at the depot by Mr. Taylor, who treated us nicely and took excellent care of us. The next morning we were up early, and at half-past eight three surreys were drawn up in front of the hotel, and our party was taken for a drive through the Highlands.

It would be a difficult matter to even attempt a description of this country, and give you a just conception of it. The least I can say of the Highlands is that it is the most beautiful country I ever saw; and for rich and fertile lands I am not putting it too strong when I say it would make Luce Township, Indiana, ashamed of itself by comparison. The Highlands are all, or nearly all, Hammock lands. There are magnolia, hickory, live-oak and water-oak trees in this particular section of the country, three and a quarter and four feet through.

The land does its own talking. The railroad lands of the Company are just such lands as have been described. There are eighteen or twenty people here looking at lands, with a view of purchasing. One man selected an eleven-hundred-acre tract in the Highlands.

The party we came with are all highly delighted, and we go in the morning to view some lands they want to purchase. I have met some of the prominent people, and have been royally treated.

It is superfluous to remark that I have been constantly on the go, and am accordingly tired and sleepy, and will write in a day or two when it will be possible for me to start home. Hoping all are well at home, I am

Yours affectionately,
(Signed) W. C. BURR.

ROCKFORD, ILL., Feb. 15, 1896.
CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:—In reply to your request for a statement of my opinion of the Tallahassee hill country, I will say that the books you distribute for advertisement do not exaggerate in the least. I was delighted with the appearance of the country and condition of the soil. The large oak and hickory trees that grow on the land you have for sale is proof enough to convince me that such soil will produce crops equal to those raised in Illinois.

Further evidence of the quality of the soil was shown by corn-stalks of last year's growth, from six to eight feet high. I noticed a number of orchards of thrifty pear and peach trees around Tallahassee, the peach-trees being now in blossom; some of them fifteen years old bore abundance of fruit last year.

I visited Mr. Johnson, a dairyman living near Tallahassee, and found on his place a herd of sixty cows, all in good condition; also bins of grain and barns full of hay which were raised on his farm. The mild winters there must certainly make dairying more profitable than in the Northern states, barns to shelter stock being unnecessary.

The Southern people I found to be very courteous in every respect. None hesitate to acknowledge that Northern immigration would be a means of great improvement to the South. I would advise all parties intending an investigation of your land to seek no other route than the one chosen by the Clark Syndicate Companies; for on arriving at Tallahassee they will be conducted to "Lanark Inn on the Gulf," where they will receive the best care and attention at a very low rate.

I will conclude by stating that I have bought land in the Tallahassee hill country, which I hope to occupy in the near future.

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. H. IHRKE,
614 Prairie St.

SOUTH BEND, IND., February 15, 1896.
CLARK SYNDICATE COMPANIES.

Gentlemen:—In reply to your request, asking how I liked Florida, must truthfully say that I was very much disappointed. When I bought my ticket to go with the party January 28th, I did it partly to satisfy idle curiosity, and to see whether there were any inducements there for a Northern man. I was told before I went away that Florida was composed mostly of sand and negroes, and that yellow fever was sandwiched in between, and that no man from the North, that was in his right mind, would go down there and invest any money with the intention of living there. But when I got there, and had a good look over the Clark Syndicate Companies' land, also the land about the hill country of Tallahassee, which is under their control, I was disappointed in the extreme. Instead of finding sand, as I was told, I found good, rich, deep soil, as good as can be found in Indiana or any other state in the Union; and what is more and better than that, the farmers around Tallahassee are not compelled to plant in the spring and harvest in the fall, and then spend two thirds of their profits to keep warm in winter, but can keep on planting and harvesting throughout the whole year—three crops from one piece of land in one year, and all without fertilizers. This, I think, is about as well as can be done on any of the prairie lands in the Northwest.

About sandy soil, there is some there, to be sure, on some of the lowlands about the coast, but the most of it is excellent fruit-growing land; besides, a part of it is covered with the very best of timber for building purposes. As to the negroes, we have them here as well as there, and I see no good reason to complain about them in either place. I have always found them good, law-abiding people.

In conclusion will say that for a man with small means who wants a farm and home of his own, in my mind he can find no better place on God's green earth than Tallahassee, Florida. I don't say this because I have land to sell there; I have not. But I think I have got enough land there to make a good living from, and some time in the near future am going there to live; and I will say to any one who cares to investigate, go and see for yourself. You will never regret your journey, but will find a class of the most hospitable people, in the hotels and in the country, that you ever met.

(Signed) H. J. PARKER.

LANARK, FLORIDA, Feb. 24, 1896.
CLARK SYNDICATE LAND COMPANY,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:—Becoming deeply interested in the various publications of FARM AND FIRESIDE and the LADIES HOME COMPANION, I finally resolved to come down here and investigate for myself. Accordingly, I left Waupun, Wisconsin, on February 11th, for a trip to the fair Southland. To confess the honest truth, I was agreeably disappointed. I had fancied that perhaps the accounts of the land were slightly overdrawn, but I have found that all representations made by the company are correct.

The climate in this part of Florida is delightful; the water is pure and much more healthful than the hard, limestone water of the North. It is also good for laundry purposes, thus doing away with the necessity of an expensive cistern. Water can also be procured so easily that well-drilling is almost unknown. They tell me that almost every little pond and river is stocked with fish. Wild geese and ducks are plentiful here. One morning we counted 300 of the former in one flock, and there were several more near by, while the woods are alive with quail, and filled with the different varieties of wild fruits in their seasons, some of them finer than those we cultivate in Wisconsin.

The land around Tallahassee is so easily cultivated, and the returns so large, that farming is a pleasure. I do not exaggerate when I say that this is the most delightful land that I ever saw, and I am familiar with New York, Wisconsin and Dakota, and have also traveled through portions of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. I will also say that the Company affords every home-seeker every facility for a thorough examination before purchasing, placing carriages and even a special car at their convenience, besides the pleasure of a trip in the Company's handsome steamer, Crescent City, down to Apalachicola and return; all this entirely free of charge, so that all the expense incurred while here is the board; and even that is at reduced rates at Lanark Inn.

I know of no better place to spend a few weeks for rest and pleasure than here. They have a fleet of seven boats here, with all the appliances for fishing, etc. I think that I can afford no better proof of my good opinion of this land than by stating that I have located within a mile or so of fair Tallahassee, and intend to make my future home there. I must, of course, return to the North to arrange matters there, but will send information of the beauties of this land of fruit and flowers to any one who will send me a stamped, self-addressed envelop. My present address is

SILAS W. FARNAM,
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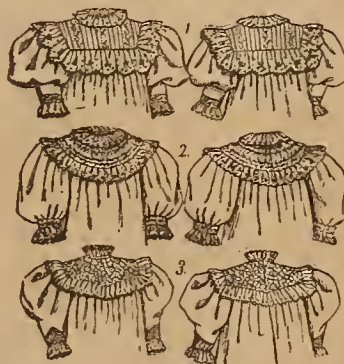
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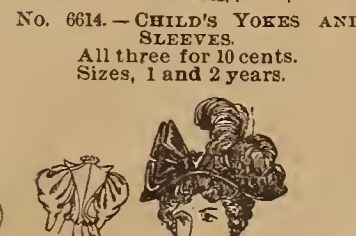
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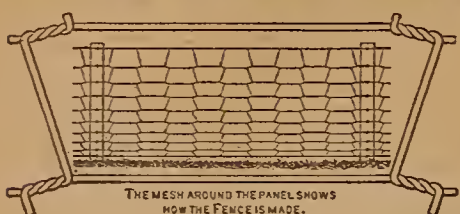


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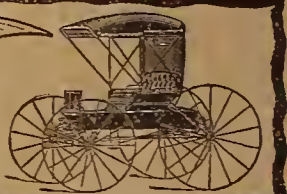
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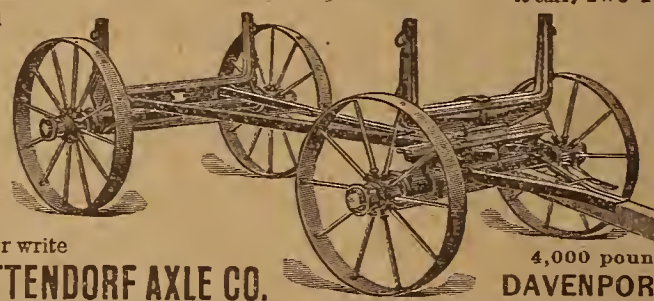


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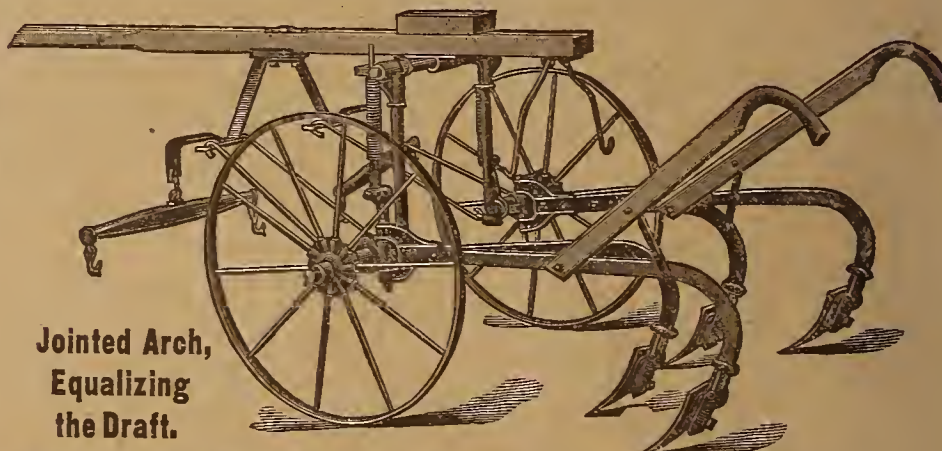
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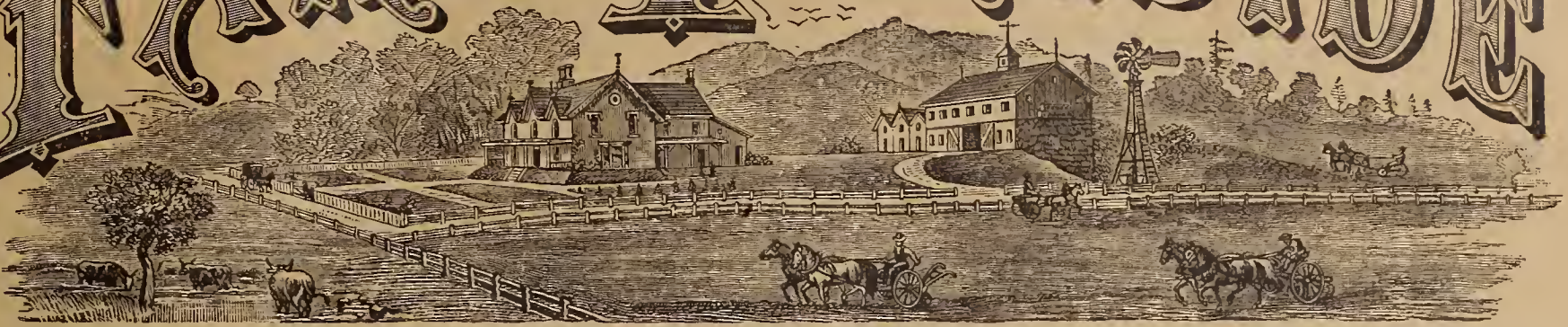


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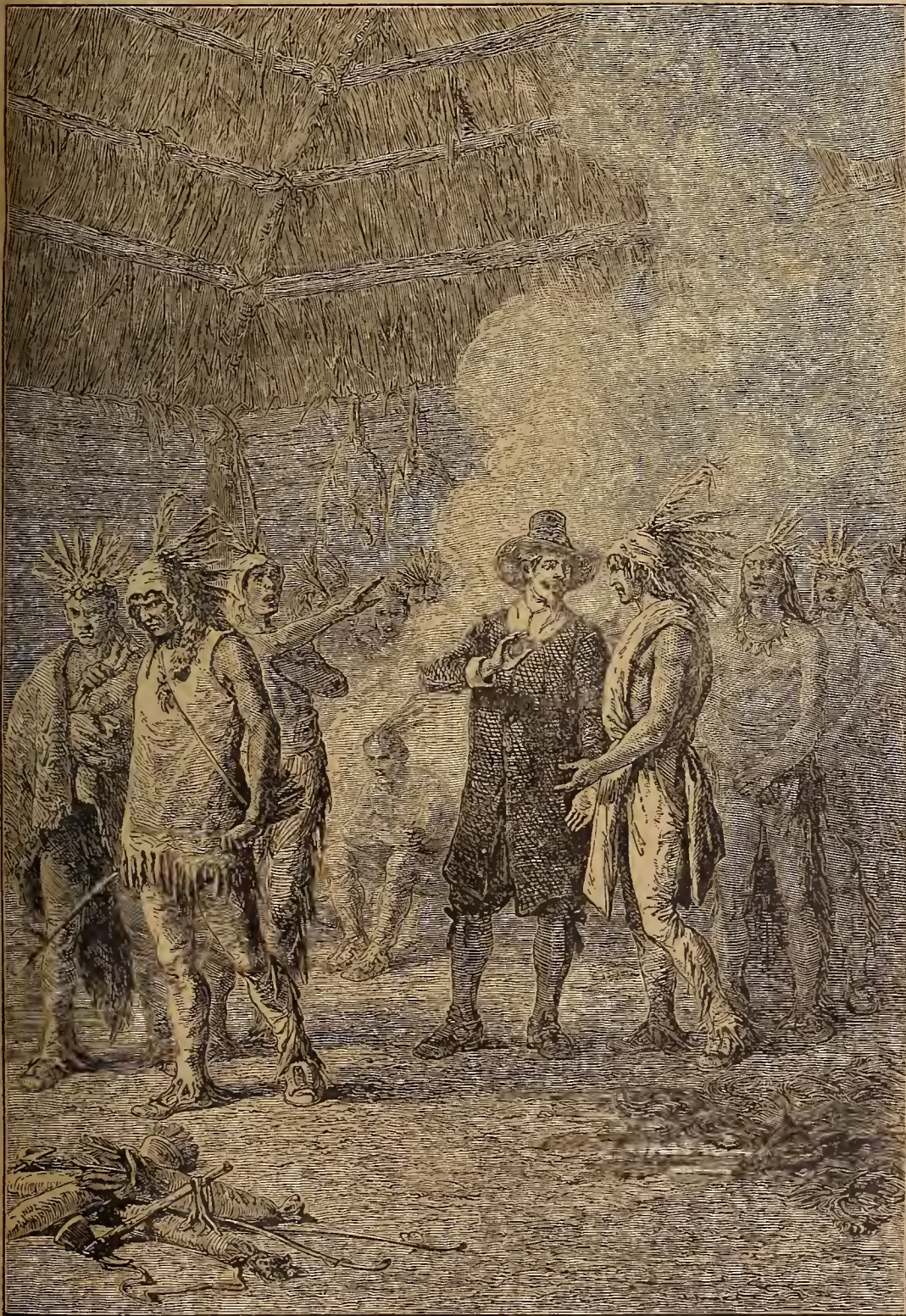
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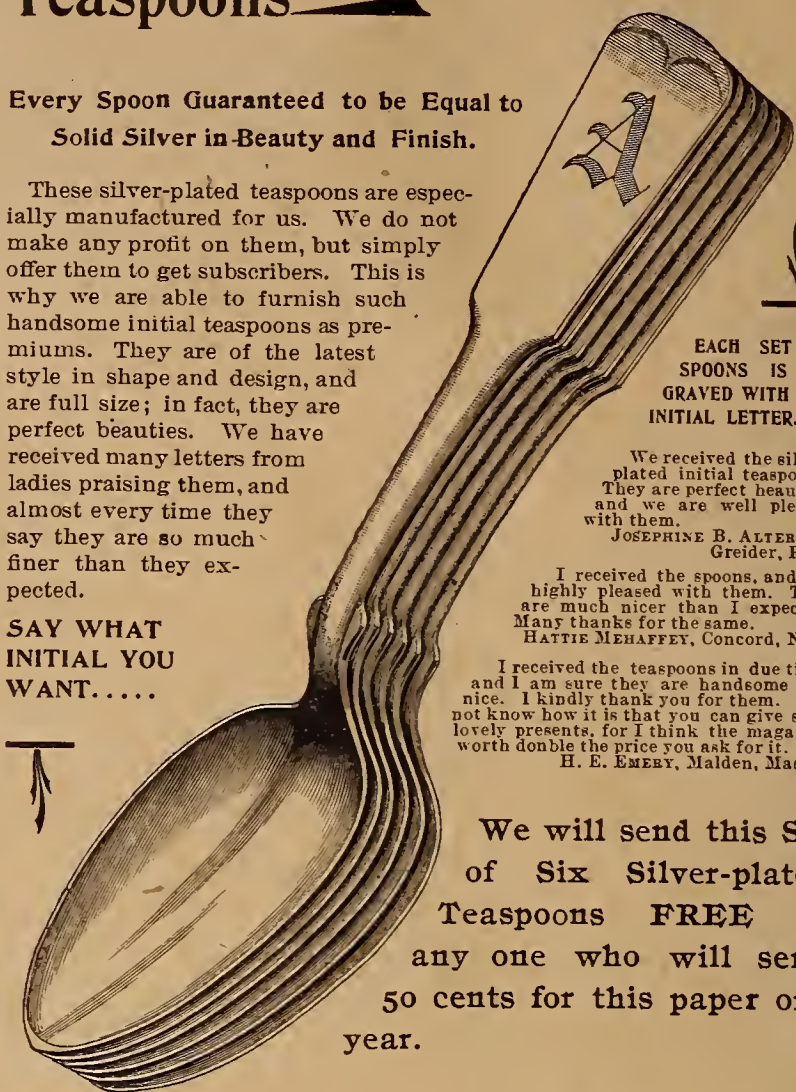
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